



GOAL! Fuccillo blasts Luton's first past Carlisle 'keeper Alan Ross.

Happy Haslam explains all

76/77

LUTON SMASHED five goals in their best win of the season to underline the potency of a remarkable promotion search which has now brought 23 points from 12 games.

And afterwards, manager Harry Haslam revealed the shrewd thinking which suggests his team can maintain the challenge right to the end.

"Some people may have been disappointed by our first-half performance," he said,

by PHILIP OSBORN

Luton 5 Carlisle 0

acknowledging that the two-goal interval lead reflected Carlisle blunders more than Luton enterprise.

"But we were deliberately containing ourselves. We were kicking uphill and against the wind. So the plan was to give nothing away in this period, accept any chances that come our way, and then crush them in the second-half."

It worked perfectly.

Carlisle's Phil Bonnyman

allowed a long ball from Paul Futchter to pass under his foot and Lil Fuccillo snapped it up to shoot a nineteenth-minute opening goal.

Twenty minutes later, slack marking allowed Ron Futchter to jab in a second.

Apart from these moments Luton had mounted little threat, and struggling Carlisle had been allowed to demonstrate some neat midfield work without mustering any real danger.

But after the interval, with Paul Futchter and Alan West spraying long passes about, Luton roared into splendid action.

Jimmy Husband produced a flash of class to inspire them when he brought the ball under control and shot on the turn in one glorious move to make it 3-0 in the 60th minute.

Remarkable

And despite vigorous resistance from Bonnyman—who was booked for a foul—and Bobby Parker, Carlisle collapsed after this.

A long shot from West made it 4-0 in the 74th minute, and John Aston became the fifth Luton forward to score with a remarkable last-minute goal.

He robbed goalkeeper Allan Ross on the by-line eight yards out and his shot rolled along the line into the net.

"Sheer persistence brought that goal—and that is our strength, we never stop," said the happy Haslam.

Luton could have had other goals. Paul Futchter was so casual with a 78th minute penalty that Ross had time to tip it round the post. Aston knocked a shot against an upright, and Husband once hooked the ball over an open goal.