

GEORGE STILL SEEKS THAT FIRST DAY WIN

ORIENT manager George Petchey, now embarking upon his seventh season in the job, has still to see his side win their first League game of the season.

On four of those past occasions Os have managed a 1-1 draw, and they certainly would not have been flattered by such a result at Luton on Saturday, when there was much to admire about their well-organised defence and quick, thrusting attacks.

Luton must surely play far better than they ever did in this match and yet lose, for they started the programme with two points strictly thanks to a freak 52nd minute goal from defender Steve Buckley that found its way

LUTON TOWN 1

77/78 **ORIENT 0**

past Orient's wrong-footed rear-guard via deflection from Bill Roffey.

Other than a curling, first half centre that he had to desperately finger tip away, Orient's long-serving John Jackson, back in Os' goal after his close season in North American League soccer, enjoyed a generally uneventful homecoming.

Luton counterpart Miki Aleksic, by contrast, was forced to a spectacular reflex save from the ever-dangerous Peter Kitchen's header moments before Buckley struck, and on other occasions was thankful for the intervention of defenders when Orient's highly-mobile new striker bore down on him.

Everything about Kitchen suggested he must soon be among the goals, and in this match he compared highly-favourably with Luton's better-known forward acquisition, Phil Boersma of Liverpool and Middlesbrough fame.

While Kitchen was the pick of the London side, they also had excellent midfield service from Peter Allen.

Looking sharper than he has for several seasons, Allen was a highly-effective destroyer and could count himself unlucky to collect a booking for a late challenge on Graham Jones, the home defender, who suffered a similar fate soon afterwards in the closing stages.

Had referee Ray Toseland awarded cautions to others earlier in the game it might have made for a tidier contest. For while never vicious, this was a match that ultimately became virtually impossible to handle, such was the amount of petty shirt-pulling and pushing that apparently did not rate any action at all on the disciplinary tariff.

Os last won their opening match in the Second Division programme in August 1970 when they beat Sheffield United 3-1.