



Charlton pack their defence as Faulkner comes in for a header for Luton

AFTER their magnificent win at Wolves on Tuesday in the League Cup, Luton were again forced into changes for this afternoon's game.

Phil Boersma, who pulled a hamstring at Wolves, was ruled unfit and his place went to 18-year-old striker Gary Heale, who was making his football league debut.

The other change in the Luton side involved the back-four, where Paul Futcher, suspended for the Wolves game after being sent off at Oldham last Saturday, returned to the side at the expense of Jimmy McNichol.

After winning at Wolves, Luton could have reasonably expected a decent attendance this afternoon.

But although the Kenilworth Road end, the enclosure and the Oak Road were fairly full, there were still huge gaps in the Bobbers' stand.

After last Saturday's refereeing fiasco, it is a welcome change to see Roger Kirkpatrick officiating in today's game and he added a nice little touch just before the kick-off when he gave the tossing-up coin to this afternoon's mascot, Matthew O'Donovan.

Husband gives Luton the lead

ERIC HARRIS WITH LUTON

LUTON: Aleksic, Price, Buckley, Fuccillo, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Husband, Hill, Ron Futcher, West, Heale. Sub: Carr.
 CHARLTON: Wood, Curtis, Warman, Campbell, Berry, Tydeman, Powell, Burman, Flanagan, Epacock, McAuley. Sub: Gritt.
 Referee: Roger Kirkpatrick (Leicester).

From the start, it was obvious there could be a spot of bother for the fans because Charlton, playing in red, had not changed their strip and it clashed with Luton's orange.

Luton's first serious attack soon fizzled out when Buckley attempted to split Charlton's defence. He had plenty of time to make his move but his intended through-ball was a miserable effort and was easily cut out by Curtis.

As Charlton retaliated it took brave goalkeeping from Aleksic who was forced to a diving save at McAuley's feet following a bad back-pass from West.

After six minutes Luton were full of attacking ideas and it took a desperate clearance from a Charlton defender to prevent Faulkner opening the scoring with a well-directed header.

Paul Futcher drew applause with an intelligent back-pass to his own keeper when he was under pressure from Powell.

Faulkner was again in the centre of a Luton attack when he ran forward in an attempt to capitalise on some fine ball control by Hill.

But Mr Kirkpatrick spotted an infringement and Charlton gratefully accepted the free kick to relieve the pressure on their defence.

Ron Futcher caused all sorts of problems to Charlton's defence when he chased a long through-ball to the edge of the area.

Wood went with him and Futcher cleverly continued running to leave the goalkeeper stranded. As Wood desperately scrambled back to his line Charlton's defence again managed to clear the ball.

After 13 minutes Wood saved Charlton when he managed to get down and palm away a terrific shot from Husband.

There was no doubt that for the first quarter of an hour Luton were completely on top.

But it took another brave save from Aleksic, who again went down at McAuley's feet to prevent Charlton scoring against the run of play.

After 19 minutes Luton deservedly took the lead — and what a splendid goal it was.

Foul

Berry was penalised for a foul on Ron Futcher and, to the crowd's disgust, West took his time in taking the free-kick.

But their complaints immediately turned to jubilation. West placed the ball on the ground and, before he had straightened up, chipped the ball forward to HUSBAND who cracked an unstoppable shot past Wood.

It was a remarkable goal and one which was obviously a result of Luton practising set moves in training.

Although Luton were well on top, Charlton showed brief flashes of danger when they attacked and Paul Futcher came to Luton's rescue with a deflection which conceded a fruitless corner.

Heale had an opportunity to increase Luton's lead but found the pace of Fuccillo's through-ball too much to cope with.

Luton were so much on top it was no surprise when they increased their lead to go two up in the 29th minute.

Seconds earlier, Ron Futcher should have scored but completely miskicked in front of goal. However, it all proved beneficial to the Town because the ball found Husband wide on the right.

Husband's accurate cross fell loose to BUCKLEY, whose low, left-footed shot left Wood completely helpless.

Luton's shooting was really lethal and, from another free-kick, Price stung Wood's fingertips with a terrific drive, but the goalkeeper managed to retrieve the ball at the second attempt.

Luton almost added a third which started from a short throw from Aleksic. The goalkeeper found Paul Futcher who completely split Charlton's defence with a perfect pass to Hill.

Lacking immediate support, Hill held the ball before turning it back to Fuccillo, whose first-time shot was well saved by Wood.

Half time: Luton 2, Charlton 0.

A third goal from the Town had always looked on and sure enough, it came in the 59th minute.

The move was started by Fuccillo who found Hill a few yards outside the box. Hill measured the positioning of Charlton's defence before letting fly with a right-footed shot.

The ball appeared to be going over the bar. But at the last minute, Hill's spin was too much for Wood and the ball suddenly dipped over his head and into the net.

It was one-way traffic and Charlton's defence hardly knew how to cope with Luton's bubbling attack and build-up.

Young Gary Heale could have got his name on to the score sheet but his effort was blocked, yet again, by Charlton's overworked defence.

There was little to stop Luton and, in the 65th minute, they hammered in their fourth goal.

Again it was Jimmy HUSBAND who managed to work his way past a couple of Charlton defenders before smashing the ball past Wood.

But much of the credit for the goal belonged to Hill who had done so much work with an intelligent pass to Husband.

Wood must have been wondering what he was up against as Luton's rampant attack surged forward yet again. The keeper received little cover as he managed to palm away a header from Ron Futcher.

There was nothing to stop Luton and, after 72 minutes Luton continued the rout. It was fitting, on such a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of refreshing attacking football, that the fifth goal should come from debut boy Gary HEALE.

He rose perfectly to nod another cross from Faulkner past the exasperated Wood.

Three minutes later HUSBAND hit his hat-trick from a penalty as Luton ran berserk.

Mr Kirkpatrick's decision came when Campbell handled in the area. Husband rapped the penalty past Wood, although it appeared to enter the net off a post.

Despite Six goals there was no stopping Luton or Jimmy Husband and in the 78th minute HUSBAND hit his fourth and Luton's seventh when he headed in Faulkner's cross.



A Luton raider is foiled as two Charlton defenders converge