

BROTHERSTON BAFFLES

THE DECISIVE factor which yielded the points for promotion-seeking Blackburn lay in the courage of their front men to risk a limb or two in terrible conditions.

Rarely did Luton look likely to upset the form book, although by and large it was obvious that many a player had gone out there with the greatest reluctance.

Town were badly disrupted by a fearsome-looking injury to the lively "Lilli" Fuccillo with the first half almost ready to close down.

Glen Keeley, never noted for his delicacy, barged the Luton midfielder heavily to the ground. A stretcher was brought on and it was later revealed that Fuccillo had ricked his neck muscles, but

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anyway he was taken to hospital for a double check-up.

Ron Futchler looked just as much at sea as his defensive twin, particularly early on when with a chance at penalty-spot-range he took far too long to gain control of the skittish ball and lost the chance.

Where Luton slipped up was in failing to curb the elusive Noel Brotherton, who led them a merry dance from all sections of the pitch.

The noteworthy action was concentrated largely in the second half. We quickly saw a superb diving catch by Milija Aleksic to keep out a close-in

header from John Waddington.

Phil Boersma intervened in the nick of time when Dave Wagstaffe was cocking a boot for a point-blank shot.

After defending with a comfortable look for so long, Luton conceded the first goal in the 69th minute.

The move stretched from one box to the other, Wagstaffe's centre being guided in by the head of Paul Round, the second-half substitute who had sneaked in on the blind side of the back four.

The second clinching goal eight minutes from time was a goalkeeper's nightmare.

Aleksic was caught stranded off his line after throwing the ball straight to the feet of Brotherston who promptly chipped it back over the 'keeper's head.