

SAINTS ON TOP AS RIVALS SLIP

LUTON TOWN 1, SAINTS 2

AN 87th-MINUTE penalty by David Peach put Saints in the doorway of Division 1 by sealing victory in a fiercely fought Second Division clash at Luton this afternoon which took them to the top

Tottenham and Bolton both lost and fourth-placed Brighton took only a point at Oldham.

The atmosphere was electric when the Saints team, unchanged for the fifth game in succession, took the field.

Saints fans had been allocated the Kenilworth Road end of the ground and they turned it into a packed mass of red and white, with their huge contingent also having to filter away to other less crowded parts of the terraces.

Many Luton fans were today in the 15,000-strong contingent supporting neighbouring South Midlands League side, Barton Rovers against Blue Star in the FA Vase final at Wembley, so here at Kenilworth Road they were outnumbered heavily—on the terraces as well as in the stands.

The Saints fans were given a pre-match warning over the loudspeaker that they were being watched through the eye of a closed circuit television camera manned by police. Although there were one or two minor outbreaks, there were no signs of major trouble inside the ground. Luton were unchanged.

LUTON	SAINTS
Aleksic 1	Wells
Price 2	Andruszewski
Carr 3	Peach
Hill 4	Williams
McNichol 5	Nicholl
P. Futch 6	Pickering
Stein 7	Ball
West 8	Boyer
R. Futch 9	MacDougall
Fuccillo 10	Holmes
Boersma 11	Funnell
Jones 12	Hebberd

Referee: John Homewood (Sunbury-on-Thames)

Saints, kicked off and were quickly awarded a free kick when Fuccillo fouled Holmes.

Pickering's lob across the middle was headed away by Boersma but before he could settle Holmes was forcing the pace down Saints right.

Andruszewski and Boyer got into the action too and then here was a real chance of an opening when Price hit a clearance straight at Boyer, but the striker's cross was way out of reach if both MacDougall and Funnell.

Peach then did well to check a promising raid by Stein and as Saints bounced back again, through Funnell on the right, MacDougall posed problems before being dispossessed by McNichol.

Clever chip

In the early stages, the big match nerves seemed to be telling more on Luton than on Saints, with Town's defence looking uncertain and desperate and in the sixth minute, a sustained burst of attack-

By
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ing ended with Boyer trying a clever little chip after Andruszewski had rolled the ball in low from the right. Boyer's effort curled agonisingly over the crossbar.

Saints must have wondered if it was a home game as the roars of support boomed out from their fans and they were certainly showing the kind of attacking spirit which is more associated

SCOREBOARD

LUTON	
Hill	64 mins.
SOUTHAMPTON	
MacDougall	52 mins.
Peach (pen.)	87 mins.

with matches at the Dell than with away fixtures.

A big kick upfield from Wells put Luton under more pressure and although McNichol headed away, Peach made a fine interception and swung over a left-wing cross which led to more pressure before Saints won a free kick for a foul by Hill on Holmes.

Peach's free kick was only partly cleared and when Williams pulled the ball across from the right, Boyer got in a really dangerous header but Aleksic saved it well and Funnell was offside anyway.

Desperate tackle

After 13 minutes there was real danger for Saints when a sparkling forward pass by Ron Futch sent Boersma racing through in the left and it took a desperate tackle by Andruszewski to dispossess him at the expense of a corner which Wells saved well.

In the 14th minute, referee Homewood booked Fuccillo for a foul on Williams.

Soon after that, though, there was a stoppage when Boersma had to receive treatment after being tripped by Nicholl. Fuccillo tried to find Price by swinging the free-kick out to the right, but Pickering got up well to head the ball out of play.

As Saints hit back, Funnell set the crowd roaring with a powerful run through the middle, but was pulled up for a handball. Then a foul by Williams on Fuccillo gave Luton another chance to get into their attacking stride.



Ted MacDougall (above) headed Saints into the lead at Luton today while Tony Funnell (right) set the crowd roaring as well early on.



But Saints were giving nothing away and a powerful tackle by Ball on West put them back on the attack, only for it to be halted by a debatable offside decision. Then Hill tried to liven things up on the Luton right, but Peach was giving nothing away and he produced a smart interception to stop the dangerous mid-field man in his tracks.

Luton had their narrowest escape so far when Nicholl forced his way through the middle and pushed a perfect pass forward on the right for Boyer to get in a really menacing centre, from which MacDougall headed inches wide.

The Luton trainer was on again in the 23rd minute. Carr had to receive treatment after a tackle on Williams which cost Luton a free-kick. Carr was carried off on a stretcher with a suspected broken ankle.

Luton immediately sent on their substitute, Jones, and as Carr was taken off, police had to move in to quell an outburst of fighting in the crowd.

Jones slotted into Carr's left-back position and was quickly involved in a skirmish with Ball as Saints forced their way forward following the free kick.

Saints continued to force the pace, but were halted by an offside decision against Funnell after

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MATCH OF THE DAY

BBC Match of the Day tonight features Coventry v Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough v Everton.

ON SOUTHERN

Southern Television will tomorrow feature the game between Tottenham and Sunderland.