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Kitch back on target

Orient 3, Luton
Town 2

By Nigel Sergeant
PETER Kitchen got back to his goal poaching best to help Orient to this moral boosting victory over high flying Luton Town on Saturday.

Kitchen hasn't scored since the opening game of the season at Sheffield United but was back to his best on Saturday looking sharp and goal hungry and would have

had a hat-trick but for an acrobatic save from Luton 'keeper Milija Aleksic.

Jimmy Bloomfield, standing by his pledge to attack a side which hit six goals past Notts County, was delighted with the way his side rose to the task: "Luton are the best all round side we have played this season and I was delighted with our performance. It was especially pleasing to get a win at home and great for Kitch to notch a couple."

With both sides totally committed to throwing men forward this was without doubt the most entertaining game at Brisbane Road this season and it was a pity there were only 7,035 there to see it.

Orient pressed forward in earnest in the opening stages but it was Luton who took a shock lead when Alan West rolled a free kick to Lil Fuccillo who swerved a fine shot round the defensive wall and past the helpless John Jackson.

Within five minutes the Os were back on terms with a fluke debut goal from Ralph Coates. Ian Moores sent him clear on the left and his cross looped into the Luton box. Paul Price looked to have it covered but inexplicably ducked out of the way and Alecic could only watch as the ball swerved into the net. The Os fans didn't know whether to laugh or cheer.

Ian Moores headed into the 'keeper's hands and Kitchen

turned a shot into the side netting as Orient kept pushing forward but Luton were equally dangerous and in the 42nd minute Turner headed wide of an empty net after Bob Hatton had roasted Nigel Gray on the left.

The game continued in much the same vein after the interval but it was Orient who carved out the better openings. In the 54th minute Tony Cralish fired a great chance over the top and five minutes later Moores turned Henry Hughton's cross into the net but the goal was disallowed for a foul on the 'keeper.

Then Coates, who was an inspiration in midfield, sent Bill Roffey clear on the left. The cross found Kitchen perfectly positioned at the near post but his powerful header was turned round the post by Alecsic.

Orient kept on battling and were eventually rewarded with the lead. Moores was felled outside the box, Coates' far post cross was headed back across goal by Joe Mayo and Kitchen dived low to head home through a melee of defenders.

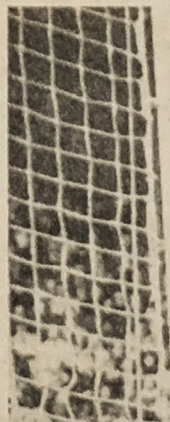
A minute later Orient should have had a third. Mayo dispossessed West in midfield, strode forward, rounded Alecsic but was then felled by Hal Donaghy. Even Luton boss David Pleat admitted afterwards that Orient should have had a penalty but it made no difference to the final outcome for the 74th minute Kitchen notched his second. Moores found Grealish with a penetrating ball, the Orient skipper swept it forward to Mayo on the left and his cross was sweetly turned home by Kitchen.



GOAL NUMBER ONE: Milija Alecsic's despairing drive cannot stop Ralph Coate's long shot bending into the net.



GOAL NUMBER TWO: Peter Kitchen is on his knees after diving low to head home.



GOAL NUMBER THREE: Kitchen turns home Joe Mayo's cross.