

Fulham fight

FULHAM MOVE into their centenary year on a winning note. This was their second successive victory, but after dominating the first half they almost let the game slip away from them as Luton rallied valiantly after the interval.

The decisive goal came after seven minutes and was an unfortunate affair for Luton.

Peter Marinello crossed after beating two defenders, but Luton 'keeper Jake Findlay took Chris Guthrie's shot well.

Then he lost it, and defender Mark Aizlewood turned the ball into his own goal as Gordon Davies challenged. Luton manager David Pleat said later: "It was an unfortunate mistake but it typified the game that Fulham should win by an own goal."

Fulham boss Bobby Campbell summed up: "In the first half we played well, but in the second we lost our rhythm and it was a battle."

Suffered

Both teams suffered casualties. Luton centre-half Chris Turner (shoulder strain) was replaced at half-time by Graham Jones and is out of tomorrow's home game with Stoke. Aizlewood (jarred knee) is doubtful.

Fulham defender Kevin Lock was also pulled off at the interval. He has a groin injury and is unlikely to play at Orient tomorrow.

Fulham's danger always came from Marinello and Davies, but their finishing did not match their creative ability.

Les Strong, who contributed some good overlaps, steadied

by **JAMES CONNOLLY**

Fulham 1 Luton 0

Fulham's defence when Luton were pushing forward with determination.

They might well have had an equaliser in the first half. Aizlewood put Bob Hatton through with a delightful long ball, but the striker's shot was too high.

And when Brian Stein was steaming through, goalkeeper Gerry Peyton dived bravely at his feet to cut out the threat.

But Fulham had their chances, too. Almost on half-time Findlay picked a Marinello cross off Guthrie's head as the big striker came in, a feat he repeated in the second half.

John Evanson did remarkably well when he moved into the back four as Fulham reshuffled, and Terry Bullivant was always a good midfield creator.

FULHAM.—Peyton: Evans, Strong, Lock, Money, Evanson, Davies, Bullivant, Guthrie, Margerisson, Marinello. Sub: Greenaway.

LUTON.—Findlay: Price, Aizlewood, Carr, Turner, Donaghy, West, Hill, Stein, Hatton, Mess. Sub: Jones.