

Sunderland Struggle Through

SUNDERLAND 1, LUTON 0.
(Half-time—0-0.)

Scorer—Rostron (69 min.).

79/79
SO Sunderland go marching on. But only with a performance which was lacking in all the finer points of football, their goal being the only exception.

A few bright but brief spells aside, they totally failed to dominate the match, which was almost a carbon copy of that seven days earlier against Orient, which they also won by a single goal.

Admittedly, Sunderland were unlucky to lose Joe Bolton with a thigh injury as early as the sixth minute, and the side was re-jigged with Rostron and then Docherty going to the left-back position.

Brown, the Sunderland substitute, nearly scored almost immediately, when he controlled a great through ball from Buckley only to blast the ball wide.

The remainder of the first half saw Sunderland playing with mostly only two forwards against a well-organised Luton defence, with the visitors also lacking any attacking intentions.

It looked as if Luton had decided at half-time that the game was there for the taking, when a Stein diving header was ruled fractionally offside, and then the same player had a long snapshot well saved by Siddall.

However, to the relief of the home supporters Sunderland scraped into the lead after 69 minutes. A Buckley cross from the right was headed on by Chisholm, and Rostron gave Findlay no chance from 10 yards.

With only four minutes left, Siddall kept the two points safe with a great save from Taylor, who had broken clear.

On the basis that it's points that win promotion and not necessarily performance, it's to be hoped that Sunderland's current good fortune continues a while longer.

Crowd—23,358.

Sunderland—Siddall; Whitworth, Bolton (Brown), Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, Rostron, Entwistle, Buckley, Lee.

Luton Town—Findlay; Stephens, Price, Donaghy, Phillipson-Masters, Birchenall, Hill, West, Taylor, Hatton (Carr), Stein.

Referee—J. B. Worrall, Warrington.