

COOKE SERVES UP MATCH-WINNER



Sunderland's 17-year-old striker John Cooke, who scored his first League goal this afternoon, evades a sliding tackle from Luton defender Mike Saxby in this afternoon's top Second Division clash at Roker Park.

SUNDERLAND 1 LUTON TOWN 0

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD John Cooke playing only his second league game, when standing in for the injured Alan Brown and John Hawley, scored Sunderland's match winning goal against promotion rivals Luton at Roker Park this afternoon.

Cooke took his chance well following good work by Stan Cummins and Kevin Arnott, who again had another good game but the real hero of the afternoon was goalkeeper Chris Turner who made at least three magnificent saves when Luton hit back.

Sunderland battled bravely after losing Shaun Elliott at half time and although the game did not reach any great heights it was an improvement on last week's disappointing display at Preston.



THE TEAMS

SUNDERLAND	LUTON
1 Turner	1 Findlay
2 Whitworth	2 Stephens
3 Hinnigan	3 Donaghy
4 Clarke	4 Grealish
5 Hindmarch	5 Saxby
6 Elliott	6 Price
7 Arnott	7 Hill
8 Marangoni	8 West
9 Cooke	9 Stein
10 Robson	10 Hatton
11 Cummins	11 Moss
Sub. Dunn	Sub. Aizlewood
Ref.: Mr R. Chadwick (Darwen, Lancs.).	

Geoff Storey reports from Roker Park

Sunderland made two changes from the side beaten at Preston last week. Joe Hinnigan a £135,000 signing from Wigan made his debut at left back with Joe Bolton the longest serving player at the club dropping out.

The other change was enforced as Alan Brown had failed to overcome a strain and his place was taken by 17-year-old John Cooke who was making his second senior appearance.

Luton recalled full back Kirk Stephens who missed last week's convincing win over bottom-of-the-table Fulham through suspension, Mark Aizlewood was relegated to substitute.

Fog which had persisted through the morning had completely cleared when Luton kicked off attacking the Fulwell end. They won a free kick when Hatton was challenged by Clarke and though Saxby won in the air, his header was well over the top.

Hinnigan's first touch was to send the ball back to Turner and the full back was in action shortly afterwards, trying to find Cummins but Stephens easily cut out his pass.

West just beat Arnott to a bad back pass from Price as Sunderland tried to press forward and when Luton came back Hindmarch went in powerfully to slide the ball away from Stein.

Hill failed to trouble Turner from a Stein cross and when Marangoni showed for the first time Cooke was just beaten to his centre by Saxby.

CLEARED DANGER

Cooke almost forced his way through, beating three Luton defenders and just as he was making his way into a shooting position Saxby made an important challenge to clear the danger.

There was a free kick to Sunderland when Grealish went in hard on Elliott but Price was there to head powerfully away from Robson's flick on.

Cummins picked up a poor Stephens free kick. He weaved his way through the middle to find Robson who was held by Saxby. When the free kick was rolled to Marangoni his shot failed to pierce the wall and travelled to Findlay.

Hinnigan crossed to the other side to rob Hatton with a strong challenge and the new signing was showing up well in the early stages.

Luton created the best chance so far in 13 minutes when West broke to find Hill and it took another important challenge from Hinnigan to prevent the striker from getting in a shot. From the corner Hatton nodded down and Turner blocked the ball on the line with his legs before it was eventually booted away.