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Losing league ground

VHILE they were los-ing in the FA Cup at lewcastle, the Town ere also slipping in the econd Division promo-

ved.
In the day's only other cond Division game of the did the Town a cour, with a 3-1 home in over Derby, who tertain the Town on turday.

REPORT BY



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NEWCASTLE UTD 2, LUTON TOWN 1
Half-time: 1-0
TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Price, Donaghy, Aizlewood;
Hill, Grealish, West; Stein, Ingram, Moss. Sub: Fuc-

TOWN: Findiay! Stepnens, Frice, Donnary, Azacarous, Hill, Grealish, West; Stein, Ingram, Moss. Sub: Fuccillo, not used.

NEWCASTLE: Carr; Carney, Halliday, Boam, Johnson; Martin, Trewick, Wharton; Shinton, Clarke, Waddie. Sub: Shoulder, not used.

THE GOALS: Ray Clarke for Newcastle, 6 minutes, free header from cross by Peter Johnson; Mick Martin for Newcastle, 60 minutes, header from Chris Waddle's cross after. Town were caught on the break; Godfrey Ingram for the Town, 64 minutes, lovely curling shot from edge of the box from pass- by Brian Stein.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town one blocked, six off target, one hit a post; Newcastle three saved, eight wide, one hit the bar.

ATTENDANCE: 29,202—easily Newcastle's best of the season, and the home team enjoyed the lift the crowd gave them.

gave them.
EFEREE: Trevor Morris, Leeds—a credit to football, and had a smashing game.
NTERTAINMENT: A rousing cup-tie, particularly for the first hour when Newcastle looked easy winners.
Better for Town supporters in the last 20 minutes but it was then too little, too late.

CUP FIGHT TOO LATE TO SAVE

IN DANGER of being over-run for a long time, the Town at least salvaged a little pride before going out of the FA Cup at St James's Park. But although they came close to

cup at St James's Park. But although they came close to snatching a draw in a hectic late burst, manager David Pleat confessed that he could have no complaints about the result.

Newcastle deserved their victory, yet they were thankful to hear the final whistle because the Town had gone close to snatching a draw with an 85th-minute shot by Ricky Hill which hit the post.

For the first hour, Newcastle had looked well in control. They were playing with fire and enthusiasm, while the Town were a couple of gears below peak performance. They rubbed out some of the unhappy memories in the last 30 minutes, but it was a case of too little, too late.

Tradition in the air

You could almost feel cup tradition in the air as Newcastle's biggest crowd of the season played their part in making it a cup-tic, with something special at stake.

We reached half-time only one goal down, and I counted that as success. I even hoped for a complete recovery, because the Town had been far from their best, while the locals were beaming and telling each other Newcastle hadn't played so well for years.

They had scored in their first attack. Ray Clarke, replacing cup-tied Mick Harford, was given space for a free header from Peter Johnson's left wing cross, and carefully steered the ball-past Jake Findlay.

The Town's normal controlled style was not allowed to show itself as Newcastle played at top speed, winning control of midfield and attacking down the flanks.

Kirk Stephens took a long time to get to grips with Chris Waddle and the defence looked decidedly uneasy at times. Waddle hammered a 20-yard shot on to and over the bar, Ken Wharton headed wide when he should have scored, and Mick Martin headed over a lightly guarded net after Findlay went for a far post cross and was stranded because he missed it.

By contrast, Kevin Carr in the Newcastle goal was given so much protection that he was never in trouble. Newcastle pulled back quickly when danger threatened, and although they conceded seven first-half corners compared with just two at the other end, nothing looked like disturbing their confidence.

I chatted with Jackie Milburn at half-time, and his worry, as a committed Newcastle end failure.

Town attacks were kept at long range, while Clarke headed another Newcastle chance wide to make me wonder whether it was the right degring to the source of the property of the source of the purchastle chance wide to make me wonder whether it was the right degring to the source of the source of the source of the purchastle chance wide to make me wonder whether it was the right degring to the source of the s

of failure.

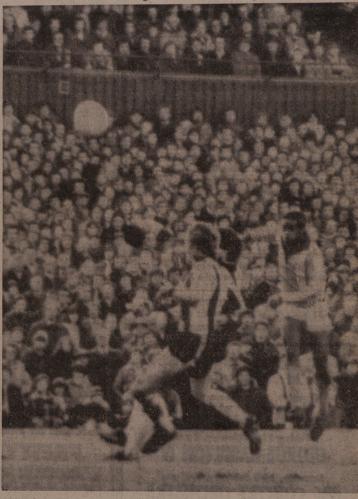
Town attacks were kept at long range, while Clarke headed another Newcastle chance wide to make me wonder whether it was the right decision to leave Mike Saxby out.

The same doubt arose in the 60th minute when the Town's need for a goal caught them stretched. An attack broke down, Boam hammered a clearance towards the left wing and Waddle took the ball down to the byline, beat Stephens and crossed for Martin to accept Newcastle's second headed goal of the game.

Newcastle seemed to think they had earned a reather, and at last the Town started to look more ositive in attack.

START OF THE RECOVERY: Above—Brian Stein, centre, and Godfrey Ingram, on the right, prepare to celebrate Ingram's goal that put the Town back into the game at St James's Park, four minutes after Newcastle had gone two up.

BELOW: Ingram is in mid-air as he hits the shot past two defenders from the edge of the Newcastle penalty area.





OH NO! The expression on Alan West's face says it all as another attack ends with goalkeeper Kevin Carr cutting out a pass, with Codfrey Ingram unable to do anything about it.