



Paul Walsh in the thick of the action again as Ipswich men close in — and the rain hammers down on the Kenilworth Road pitch

UNLUCKY LUTON ROCKED BY CONTROVERSIAL GOAL

**LUTON v IPSWICH
ERIC HARRIS REPORTS**

THERE was, after all, no place for on-loan striker Robbie Cooke, signed this week from Peterborough, in the Luton team this afternoon.

Manager David Pleat, as expected, retained an unchanged team with Billy Kellock nominated to fill the substitute's position.

The Town welcomed back Ricky Hill and Mal Donaghy from international duty with England and Northern Ireland, respectively, in an attempt to stretch their unbeaten record to seven games.

The question of saturated television coverage took an important turn again today with Anglia cameras inside the ground to record highlights for this evening.

It was the sixth time Luton have been involved in televised highlights in ten matches this season.

Donaghy was penalised for two early fouls on Mariner and McCall as Ipswich pushed forward in the drizzle looking for an early goal.

Ipswich won a fourth-minute corner which was headed away by Stephens who was under pressure in limited space from three Ipswich players.

There was a reprieve for Luton after only five minutes when Wark threatened to put Ipswich in front with a crisp low drive which Findlay did extremely well to get



down to parry the ball and gather at the second attempt.

It was an important piece of goalkeeping and one which prevented the Town from conceding an early goal.

While Donaghy was off the pitch receiving treatment, Ipswich were presented with another opportunity of going in front when McCall tested Findlay with a shot the Luton

to the referee and linesman but Mr Lloyd refused to change his mind about the goal.

The referee did eventually consult his linesman who seemed to indicate there was nothing wrong with Brazil's effort.

The next time Ipswich attacked the linesman did flag for offside — a decision which brought sarcastic applause from the Luton fans.

The first half was rapidly developing into a squabble with players from both sides arguing against many of the referee's decisions — an indication that Mr Lloyd was not having one of his better afternoons.

There was a terrific scramble in the Ipswich goal-line as the ball bobbed about before Cooper eventually managed to fist it clear.

It was one of few occasions in the first 23 minutes where the Town had managed to put the visitors under pressure.

Mariner was in trouble with the referee for an il-

keeper punched away with difficulty.

But, with 11 minutes gone, Ipswich went in front with a controversial goal. **BRAZIL**, who ran through, appeared to be in an offside position when he beat Findlay but the referee immediately awarded a goal.

The decision incensed the Luton players who made immediate protests



Luton's Ricky Hill battles through the rain to fire off a shot

legal tackle on Goodyear which brought Luton a freekick halfway inside their own half.

Ipswich came forward again and won their third corner when Stephens headed a deceptive cross behind.

The kick was eventually punched clear by Findlay who was injured by Butcher's raised knee. But the Ipswich player received nothing more than a lecture from the referee.

With ten minutes left to half time, the Town won a free kick right on the edge of the area after Osman had fouled Hill.

Moss bent the ball around the defensive wall but Cooper fisted the ball clear to give Luton their first corner.

Two minutes later, at the other end, Horton appeared to push Wark off the ball and, although Ipswich appealed for a penalty, the referee showed no interest.

Play immediately switched to the other end where Fuccillo was only a fraction off target with a screaming drive.

There were only four minutes of the first half left when Findlay prevented Ipswich from increasing their lead with a fine full length save when he fisted away Gernon's ferocious shot.

HT: Luton 0, Ipswich 1

The referee was involved in further controversy only a minute into the second half.

Stein, who was out through, ran on strongly and appeared to be knocked off the ball by Osman.

To Luton's disgust, the referee showed not even the remotest interest in their penalty claims.

Any chances battling Luton had of equalising disappeared again when Stein was penalised for backing into Cooper in

another abortive attack.

For their part, Ipswich kept going forward and, from Gates' cross, Brazil was not far off the mark with his close shot.

Ten minutes into the second period Fuccillo was presented with an opportunity to provide the equaliser following an attractive build up involving Hill and Stein.

But his left footed shot flashed wide of Copper's right hand post at the Oak Road end.

Stein was again in the wars when Osman sent him tumbling.

The breakthrough Luton had been desperately searching for finally arrived in the 58th minute from a penalty when Mariner brought down Stephens.

This time there was absolutely no doubt about the offence.

Cooper correctly anticipated the direction of **STEIN's** kick and managed to get a hand to the ball but could not prevent it from entering the net.

TODAY'S TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Findlay, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Fuccillor, Moss. Sub: Kellock.

IPSWICH: Cooper, Burley, Gernon, Mills, Osman, Butcher, Wark, McCall, Mariner, Brazil, Gates. Sub: D'Avray.

Referee: Mr D. Lloyd of Worcestershire.