

Stein saves Luton

IPSWICH Town bounced back from successive home defeats by Arsenal and Liverpool in the Milk Cup to share the spoils with First Division newcomers Luton Town in a lively match at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Scottish international striker Alan Brazil gave Town a 13th minute lead with a hotly disputed goal and Brian Stein equalised from the penalty spot in the 59th minute.

Town gave a very good first half performance, but in the second period had Russell Osman and Steve McCall booked for fouls.

By NEAL MANNING



ALAN BRAZIL - put Town ahead with a disputed goal.

Town made two changes from the team beaten by Arsenal a week ago. Paul Cooper, who denies that he has asked for a transfer, was back in goal after being dropped a month ago. Laurie Sivell hurt his right knee in training this week.

Recovered

Transfer-listed striker Eric Gates had recovered from an ankle injury which had kept him out of the last two matches. Mich D'Avray, match-winner against Liverpool a fortnight ago, was substitute.

Luton were unchanged for the third successive match with Billy Kellock on the substitute's bench.

It was a wet and windy afternoon, but conditions underfoot appeared ideal for football. The weather, however, could not dampen the enthusiasm of the large following of Town supporters.

The rain was still driving down when the match got under way and Luton immediately went into the attack with Horton going through the middle before

laying the ball off to Moss on the left.

The winger cut in before chipping the ball into the goalmouth where Cooper handled cleanly.

Town immediately replied and looked good coming forward. In the third minute Brazil crossed from the right and Wark got in a looping header, but Mariner was penalised for a foul on Findlay.

Town earned the first corner of the match a minute later when Cooper's long clearance, aided by the wind, went off the head of Donaghy.

Town, operating a 4-4-2 formation with Gates playing on the right hand side of midfield, were already looking impressive and they went close to taking the lead in the sixth minute.

McCall squared the ball to Wark who let go with a low drive from just outside the penalty area which Findlay dived to save but

could not hold. He recovered just in time as Brazil raced in for the rebound.

There was another close call for Luton three minutes later following a free-kick

11th minute when Burley cashed in on some hesitancy on the part of the Luton defence and squared the ball to McCall.

McCall let go with a right-foot shot from just outside

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against Horton on Mariner. Mills touched the free-kick short to Burley who picked out Brazil in the penalty area. Brazil shrugged off a challenge from Donaghy and set up a chance for Gates but he shot just wide of the near post.

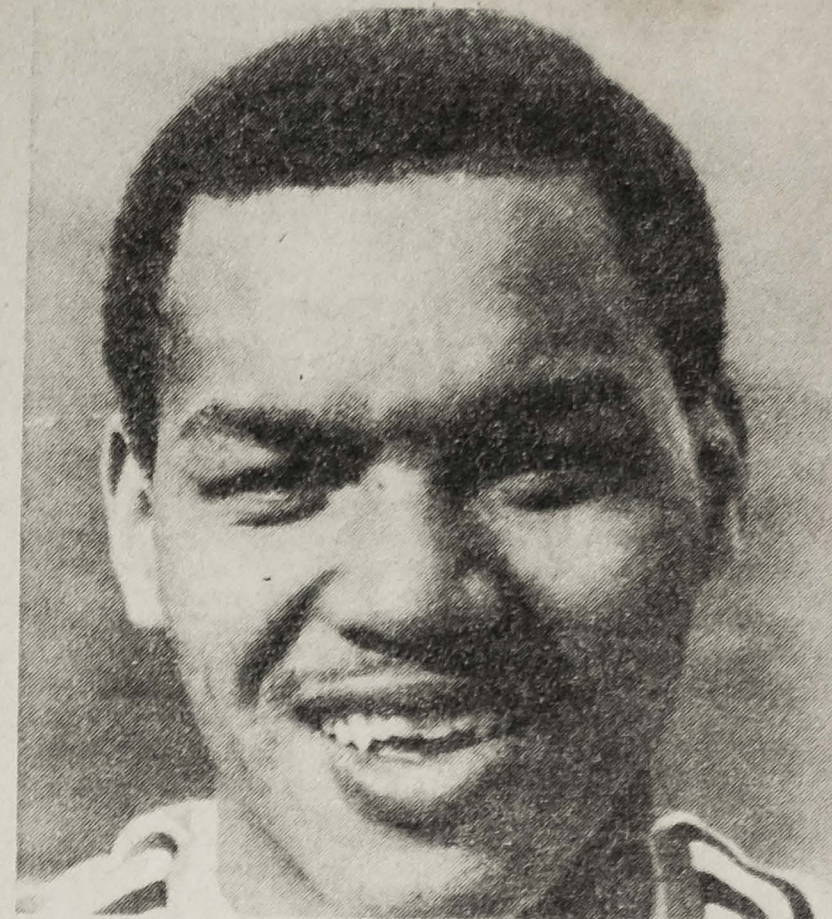
It was still all Town who were mesmerising their opponents at this stage and they went close again in the

the penalty area and Findlay, looking insecure, managed to push the ball into the air.

Paid off

Town's pressure paid off and they went in front in the 13th minute, but the goal was bitterly disputed.

Mariner turned Donaghy midway inside the Luton half



BRIAN STEIN - equalised for Luton from the penalty spot.

and slipped the ball through for BRAZIL who looked at least two yards offside.

The Luton defence hesitated, but Brazil went on to slip the ball past Findlay and, although the linesman was still flagging for offside against Brazil, the referee allowed the goal to stand.

That sparked off an uproar with the Luton players surrounding the referee, who came across to the linesman to indicate that he had allowed the goal because a Luton defender had had the last touch before the ball went through to Brazil.

Nobody could dispute that Town were not worth their lead, but it was unfortunate that the goal should be surrounded by controversy.

A minute later Gernon floated a free-kick to the far post where Butcher got up and sent in a header which Findlay ought to have caught comfortably, but instead made a meal of it and pushed in behind for a corner.

From the resultant flag-kick, taken by McCall, Osman got high above Findlay and landed on top of him, and there was a two minutes' stoppage while the goalkeeper had treatment.

Cooper spared Butcher's blushes in the 18th minute with a magnificent save. Butcher gave the ball away to

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