

Lucky 13!

But Town
deserved
to get
the
breaks

FINDLAY KEPT THEM OUT

IPSWICH Town had that little bit of luck at Kenilworth Road on Saturday with Alan Brazil's 13th minute goal, but it would have been a travesty of justice had they returned home empty-handed.

Clearly a very poor referee, Derek Lloyd, made a bad mistake by overruling his linesman when Paul

By NEAL
MANNING

Mariner pushed the ball through to the offside Brazil, but that's now history.

While Luton were upset at the time, they could have no complaints about going in at half-time only a goal behind. They had their goalkeeper Jake Findlay to thank for brilliant saves from John Wark, Steve McCall and Irvin Gernon.

Classy

For the first 45 minutes Town played like thoroughbreds, reproducing the form that makes their present position look nonsense.

Town were a class above the First Division newcomers and were only denied an emphatic lead by Findlay's goalkeeping.

Bobby Ferguson exclaimed, "We were tremendous in the first half, but we lost our way a bit after the interval until we picked ourselves up in the final quarter of an hour."

That's an accurate summary of a lively match, always full of action but spoiled by the referee.



A 59th minute penalty from Brian Stein gave Luton hope after Mariner had pulled down Kirk Stephens and gave them hope.

Luton certainly had the better of second-half exchanges and their manager David Pleat said, "I think we deserved a draw. We compe-

thing of a transitional season for Town, but they should soon climb up the table if they continue to play like they did in the first half against Luton.

There was total commitment from the whole team with a particularly encouraging performance from Irvin

Luton winger David Moss blasts a free kick past the Town wall but Paul Cooper pushes the ball to safety to prevent a first-half equaliser.

took time for McCall to settle into Arnold Muhren's old position on the left hand

saved Stein's penalty, getting a hand to the ball, but could not prevent it going into the net.

Cooper, who was caught out when Stein hit the bar in first-half injury time, made a very important save in the 18th minute following a mistake by Terry Butcher.

There were second-half bookings for Russell Osman — the England man was unlucky — and McCall while Stein completed a hat-trick of bookings for what the referee said was encroachment at a free kick.

Now Town face what will be termed by many as a relegation battle at Birmingham next Saturday. It may be too early to talk about who's going down, but certainly three points will be more than welcome for Ferguson's side.

The teams

Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Fucillo, Moss; sub. Kellock.

Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Gernon, Mills, Osman, Butcher, Wark, McCall, Mariner, Brazil, Gates; sub. D'Avray.

Attendance: 13,378.

Referee: Mr. D. Lloyd (Worcester).

82/83

How they stand

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	10	6	3	1	15	6	21
West Ham	10	6	1	3	21	12	19
Liverpool	10	5	3	2	20	10	18
W.B.A.	10	6	0	4	18	12	18
Watford	10	5	2	3	22	11	17
Tottenham	10	5	2	3	21	11	17
Stoke	10	5	1	4	20	15	16
Man City	10	5	1	4	13	14	16
Aston Villa	10	5	0	5	16	16	15
Everton	10	4	2	4	19	14	14
Luton	10	3	5	2	25	22	14
Arsenal	10	4	2	4	11	9	14
Nottm For	10	4	1	5	16	19	13
Coventry	10	4	1	5	11	15	13
Sunderland	10	3	3	4	14	19	12
Brighton	10	3	3	4	9	23	12
Swansea	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
Notts Cnty	10	3	2	5	10	17	11
Southampton	10	3	2	5	8	19	11
Ipswich	10	2	4	4	15	13	10
Norwich	10	1	5	4	13	19	8
Birmingham	10	1	3	6	7	23	6

Luton 1, Ipswich 1

ted well and we stayed with Ipswich today," referring to last season's FA Cup tie when Town won 3-0.

Luton extended their unbeaten run to seven matches but a draw these days is not what it used to be when there were two points for a win.

In fact, Town slipped one place down the table and into the bottom three as a result of Saturday's draw.

This is going to be some-

Gernon, who is benefiting from an extended run in the side.

Gernon has slotted into the left back spot very well indeed. Of course, the Town coaching staff always knew he was a fine prospect and he is now beginning to fulfil his promise and to look comfortably at home in the First Division.

Another player who is beginning to stamp his mark on the side is Steve McCall. It

side of midfield, but in recent weeks he has got the confidence which was perhaps missing at the start of the season.

Teams near the bottom normally don't have the breaks, but Brazil's opening goal was a result of referee Lloyd thinking that Ricky Hill had made a backpass to the Scot's feet.

Brazil put his chance away without too much trouble, but TV confirmed that it was Mariner who had played the ball through the heart of the Luton defence.

It was a pity that Town did not turn their superiority into goals, but that was mainly due to Findlay's fine shot stopping.

Conditions were never easy in the driving rain, especially for a goalkeeper, but Findlay kept the ball out and that's what mattered most.

Paul Cooper, recalled to Town's side because Laurie Sivell was injured; did well on his return. He almost

IPSWICH IN TOP TEN

IPSWICH Town figured in the "Top Ten" when it came to discipline records amongst the 92 Football League clubs last season.

In the Misconduct Report of the Football Association's Disciplinary Committee of 1981-82, Ipswich were in ninth place behind first placed Shrewsbury Town and Manchester United, Luton, West Ham, Watford, Chester, Torquay and Arsenal.



Incensed Luton Town players Brian Stein (left) and Ricky Hill make their protests to the linesman after the referee ruled that Brazil's goal was not offside and would stand.