

IAN'S FIRST SAVES DAY



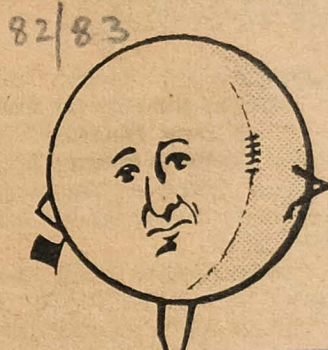
GARY ROWELL tackles Luton's Mal Donaghy, with Ailly McColist in attendance at Roker Park today.

SUNDERLAND..... 1 LUTON TOWN..... 1

AN IAN ATKINS goal, his first for the club, in the 87th minute gave Sunderland a deserved point against Luton Town at Roker Park this afternoon.

When David Moss had given the Second Division champions a 76th minute lead it looked as though Sunderland were going to crash to a disappointing home defeat that they never deserved.

Although there was a marked improvement on Wednesday night's performance, the game was still riddled with mistakes. Sunderland just cannot afford to be dropping home points at this rate if they are to steer clear of trouble.



Sunderland made one change, Mick Buckley missing his first game of the season after being injured in Wednesday's goalless Milk Cup tie against Norwich City. Stan Cummins, who has played in only one of the last nine games, was recalled to fill the vacancy in midfield only a week after saying it was unlikely that he would be in the Sunderland side again.

Luton were without the injured Clive Goodyear and Lil Fuccillo, Wayne Turner taking over in defence and Billy Kellock in midfield respectively.

Sunderland kicked off attacking the Fulwell end but Venison's attempt to find West out on the left travelled harmlessly out of play. When they came back again Munro found Nicholl who had switched positions with Venison but he faired no better with a pass which travelled through for a goal kick.

THE TEAMS

Geoff Storey reports from Roker Park

SUNDERLAND	LUTON TOWN
1 Turner C.	1 Judge
2 Nicholl	2 Stephens
3 Munro	3 Money
4 Atkins	4 Horton
5 Elliott	5 Turner W.
6 Pickering	6 Donaghy
7 Cummins	7 Hill
8 Rowell	8 Stein
9 McColist	9 Walsh
10 West	10 Kellock
11 Venison	11 Moss
Sub: Cooke	Sub: Bunn

Ref: Mr D. Allison (Lancaster).

West brought the ball under control to try a shot from close range and though the ball appeared to strike Wayne Turner on the arm it was quite accidental and the referee was well positioned to wave play on. The ball was forced out to Venison whose shot lifted well over the bar.

FIRM CHALLENGE

Cummins, who had taken up a position on the right was stopped by Money. Cummins regained possession and brought in Pickering but Horton came to Luton's rescue with a firm challenge.

Kellock clearly handled when Cummins tried to go past him and though the linesman signalled for the offence the referee waved play on much to the disgust of the crowd.

In six minutes however Luton showed how dangerous they could be for when Hill held off a challenge from Cummins, Moss was in the clear only to shoot straight at Chris Turner.

Rowell headed a long clearance from Chris Turner into the path of West whose poor control led to Atkins having to make a good recovery to prevent Luton from breaking. In the early stages too many passes were going astray.

Atkins drilled a free-kick in the direction of Pickering and when Wayne Turner clearly handled the linesman signalled but again referee Allison waved play on.

In 13 minutes Luton missed a great chance of going ahead. A great ball from Horton found Moss clear on the left and though he picked out Walsh at the far post his header lifted over the top.

A minute later Pickering took on Stephens and when

(continued in back page)