

WHAT A RELIEF — WIN AT LAST

Hatters shattered

REJUVENATED Ipswich Town at last hit the goal trail and notched up a desperately needed victory in the quest for First Division salvation.

A three goal second-half salvo with efforts from Gates, who crashed home after seeing a penalty saved by Sealey, followed by goals from Putney and D'Avray were Ipswich's just reward for a sparkling display.

It was Bobby Ferguson's sides first League victory for almost two months.

By DAVE ALLARD

Burley and D'Avray were back in action for Ipswich after injury.

Burley took the place of Yallop at right-back while D'Avray came in up front as Ipswich switched McCall from midfield to left-back at the expense of Barnes who was substitute.

Luton gave a debut to 18-year-old Breacker. They had Donaghy back in defence with Antic coming into midfield.

It was a cold afternoon with the Ipswich players looking forward to another warming reception from the home fans as a booster in their bid to pull away from relegation trouble.

Ipswich, without a goal in front of the home fans since early February, began attacking the North Stand end and early on Putney played to Brennan who sent a drive over the crossbar.

Luton's England striker Walsh went on a dizzy run in the Ipswich penalty box, but, after taking a return pass from debutant Breacker, he ended up offside.

Ipswich were knocking the ball about in a cool and confident manner. A cross from McCall in the fourth minute after a good Ipswich move down the left ended with D'Avray getting in a header

which Sealey took comfortably.

A neat ball from Burley gave Sunderland a chance to break his goal duck but Sealey was out quickly to dive bravely at the striker's feet.

Sealey was in action again when he caught hold of a left-foot drive by McCall from just outside the penalty box after a frantic spell of Ipswich pressure which at one stage looked to have set Brennan up for a crack at

Ipswich 3 Luton 0

goal only for Zondervan to misread the situation and take the ball right off his teammate's toe.

Burley pumped in another good ball from the right, Butcher met it at the far post only for D'Avray to be foiled by Stephens who gave away a corner.

Zondervan hurt

Zondervan went off for a spell of treatment to a right-foot injury after a challenge by Thomas and soon after Sunderland made space for himself to get in a shot which was charged down by Donaghy.

In the 21st minute Sunderland and Putney

combined to put Gates in with a possible chance but the little striker was squeezed out by a posse of Luton defenders.

Ipswich were continuing to make the running but as was the case against Watford last Saturday in the goalless draw, goal-scoring opportunities had so far been missing.

Brennan swung a superb ball out to Burley on the right but Donaghy again saved the day for Luton. Then Zondervan sent Sunderland away down the right only for the striker, on loan from Arsenal, to send over a weak low cross that was comfortably cleared by Goodyear.

Luton attacks were a rarity

as Ipswich continued to dominate and after a strong tackle by McCall going down the left D'Avray almost set up Gates with a neat pass.

Donaghy clears

A sparkling run by Sunderland down the right ended with the striker whipping over a good first-time cross from which the ever-reliable Donaghy managed to get his head to the ball before D'Avray who had taken up an excellent position.

A Brennan shot in the 27th minute was too hot for Sealey to handle and the visiting 'keeper let the ball roll for a corner.

From Gates' flag kick Osman soared in to get in a header that was bundled away for another corner. This second corner came to nothing as did a third which followed in quick succession for Ipswich.

Luton's tactics were strange as they were operating with Antic in a sweeping role at the back. Considering their safe league position this rather negative attitude was puzzling for a team with so much tackling ability.

Little was seen of Luton going forward and Ipswich continued to play the football. In the 34th minute, McCall squared to Brennan, whose powerful right-footer was just wide.

D'Avray and Sunderland combined well to find Gates

in space near the edge of the penalty box. But Breacker robbed Gates superbly with a tremendous tackle.

Little was being seen of Zondervan down the right of the Ipswich midfield. The Dutchman was obviously feeling the right-foot injury, sustained early in the half.

In the 42nd minute a blinding save by Sealey prevented Osman putting Ipswich ahead.

The Ipswich defender got his head powerfully to a Gates corner only for Sealey to somersault and touch over the bar.

Ipswich had dominated the first half from start to finish, but were still looking for that little bit of luck in front of goal that had been deserting them for so long. Half-time:

**IPSWICH TOWN 0
LUTON 0**

THE TEAMS

IPSWICH: Cooper; Burley, McCall, Zondervan, Osman, Butcher, Putney, Brennan, D'Avray, Sunderland, Gates. Sub: Barnes.

LUTON: Sealey; Stephens, Thomas, Horton, Antic, Goodyear, Donaghy, Stein, Walsh, Breacker and Moss. Sub: Bunn.

Referee: Mr. Ray Lewis (Great Bookham).

The second-half began with Ipswich again taking the game to the visitors and in the 48th minute they were duly rewarded for their sustained pressure when GATES gave the home side the lead from the penalty spot.

Brennan pumped a superb ball into the danger zone for Butcher to head into the path of Gates. The hard-working Gates turned past Horton on the edge of the six-yard box only for the Luton skipper to pull him back by his shirt.

It was a blatant penalty but as Gates stepped up to take the kick Sealey read the situation and dived to his left to stop the ball. But fortunately for Gates he managed to race on and smack home at the second attempt.

It was Ipswich's first goal at home since the 3-1 win over Coventry on February 4 and you could almost feel the relief all around the ground.

Gates' goal put him on 13 for the season, level with former Ipswich striker Mariner.

Ipswich were now bubbling with confidence and from a D'Avray header Sunderland picked up the

● Continued on
Back Page