

Roker boss to wield axe as slump goes on

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By JOHN DIXON

Luton T. 4, Sunderland 1
SUNDERLAND boss Alan Durban may be planning a defensive shake-up after yesterday's crash at Luton.

Roker keeper Chris Turner saved a dramatic first half penalty and for a while it seemed Sunderland's luck had at last changed for the better.

But Durban's men were shattered by Luton's second half onslaught which left them without a win in three League games.

Durban said: "It is not the end of the world even though we haven't won any of our three opening games.

"It was end-to-end stuff

and it proved that you have to take your chances."

But he hinted that he might be looking to make defensive changes and the unfortunate Turner, who made three other splendid saves, took the blame for Luton's first goal.

Luton were forced to go through a grim struggle for half the game before Sunderland's defence fell apart after the break. And leading scorer Brian Stein, despite notching his first goal of the season, looks like being sacked as penalty taker.

For the first 45 minutes, Luton hammered away at a hard tackling and quick covering Sunderland defence but their only real chance was a 30th minute penalty when Gordon Chisholm upended Stein.

Last year David Moss gave up the penalty taking job after two misses but he must fancy getting it back after seeing Turner's save from Stein.

Lobbed

Sunderland's defiance ended in the second half when Ricky Hill shot Luton ahead 54 seconds after the restart. Paul Walsh made it two and Sunderland's threatened revival after Colin West scored ended when Iain Munro lobbed a spectacular 25-yard own-goal.

Stein's headed goal 14 minutes from time left Sunderland looking demoralised.

In a game that was competitive and hard, referee Ray Lewis had to get the book out with a vengeance with three cautions in four minutes in the first half. Sunderland's Barry Venison and Shaun Elliott and Luton's Walsh were all booked for fouls

LUTON.—Sealey 7; Stevens 7; Turner 7; Horton 6; Elliott 6; Donachie 6; Hill 6. **WALSH** 9; Stein 8; Dunne 7; Moss 7.

SUNDERLAND.—Turner 6; Venison 5; Munro 5; Atkins 6; Chisholm 5; Elliott 7; Pickering 6; Rowell 6; West 7; Proctor 6. **ATKINSON** 8.