

HILL PUTS ROKER ON DOWN PATH

83/84

LUTON TOWN..... 4 SUNDERLAND..... 1

A SECOND half blitz by Luton Town at Kenilworth Road this afternoon leaves Sunderland still seeking their first win of the season.

There was no hint of a goal rush in the opening half when Chris Turner kept Sunderland in with a chance by saving a 30th minute penalty from Brian Stein.

**Geoff Storey
reports from
Kenilworth
Road**

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In brief

Northern Ireland international centre-forward Billy Hamilton, scored a hat-trick of headers in the space of 26 minutes for Burnley against Bournemouth. They came in the 33rd, 46th, and 59th minutes.

Liverpool missed a 70th minute penalty when Phil Neal's spot kick was saved at foot of post by Nottingham Forest's Dutch international Hans Van Breukelen.

But when Ricky Hill put Luton ahead immediately after the break and Paul Walsh added a superb solo goal on the hour it was always going to be an uphill struggle.

Colin West revived hopes when reducing the deficit in 68 minutes, but three minutes later a bizarre own goal from Iain Munro made it a lost cause and Stein completed the misery with a fourth goal in 77 minutes.

Sunderland were forced to make their first change in three games when it was decided not to risk Paul Bracewell. The England Under-21 international received extensive treatment to a knee injury at Kenilworth Road today in the hope of recovering in time to resume against Wolves on Wednesday night. Shaun Elliott took over in midfield, while Leighton James replaced John Cooke on the sub's bench.

Although Trevor Aylott had recovered from injury, Luton were reluctant to change the side which were comfortable 3-0 winners at Leicester in mid-week.

In the early stages it was all Luton. Stein just failed to keep in play a return pass from Wayne Turner and then the home team looked hopefully for a penalty when Walsh went down when challenged by Venison and Chisholm.

Shaun Elliott picked up a loose ball in midfield to find Atkinson, and the youngster's cross was headed down by West for Pickering to fire high and wide.

Pickering led another promising Sunderland break. Although he had colleagues up in support he chose to shoot from long range and failed to trouble Sealey.

A 25-yard drive from Horton finished on the roof of the stand behind the Sunderland goal.

In 25 minutes Proctor forced Sealey into a diving save. But play quickly switched to the other end, where Stein hit a fierce drive narrowly wide.

PENALTY SAVE

A great crossfield pass from Moss found Stein. After beating Munro the Luton striker was brought down by Chisholm and the referee had no hesitation this time in awarding a penalty.

Stein placed the ball to Turner's left and the Sunderland goalkeeper brought off a fantastic save to deny the home side a 30th minute lead.

At the other end Rowell was brought down by Bunn. From the free kick Proctor made it a short one to Atkinson, who cleverly beat three players before being brought down. The referee allowed play to continue for Atkins to fire straight at Sealey.

West also shot weakly at the Luton goalkeeper as the Sunderland shooting left a lot to be desired. Shaun Elliott fed Atkins on the left, who played the ball into the path of Proctor. He too failed to get any power behind his drive.

Venison rescued Sunderland with a timely tackle on Stein, who was racing clear down the middle. Venison went in hard on Walsh and though the tackle looked fair enough the full back was booked in 42 minutes. Walsh lashed out at Venison, but the referee took no action against the Luton striker.

Atkins headed clear from Walsh, and right on the interval Turner flung himself to his left to keep out a piledriver from Horton. Walsh was booked in 45 minutes for a tackle which left Munro limping. In injury time Shaun Elliott was booked for a challenge on Bunn.

HALF-TIME

LUTON 0
SUNDERLAND 0

THE TEAMS

LUTON	SUNDERLAND
1 Sealey	1 Turner
2 Stephens	2 Venison
3 Turner	3 Munro
4 Horton	4 Arkins
5 Elliott (P)	5 Chisholm
6 Donaghy	6 Elliott (S)
7 Hill	7 Pickering
8 Stein	8 Rowell
9 Walsh	9 West
10 Bunn	10 Proctor
11 Moss	11 Atkinson
Sub: Aylott	Sub: James

Ref.: Mr R. S. Lewis.

Luton went ahead in the first minute of the second half. Bunn found Moss free on the left and when the winger sent over a high cross Walsh collided with Turner. The ball broke loose for HILL, who made no mistake despite a vain attempt by Munro to keep the ball out.

Goal times

Hill	46min.
Walsh	59min.
WEST	68min.
Munro o.g.	71min.
Stein	77min.

Turner had to leave his line quickly to clear from Stein after Shaun Elliott had slipped. Rowell was sandwiched by Horton and Donaghy and from the free-kick Pickering's low drive took a deflection to give Sunderland a corner.

Pickering, however, made it a short one to Proctor, whose deep cross was won in the air by Chisholm and turned behind again. Atkinson's inswinger was cleared and Luton broke quickly and could well have gone further ahead, Moss shooting inches over as Turner raced from his line.

Luton did increase their lead in 59 minutes with a great solo goal from WALSH. The England international played a one-two with Horton and turned to beat Munro before cutting in on goal and placing the ball wide of Turner.

Sunderland pulled a goal back in 68 minutes mainly through the persistence of Atkinson. The youngster harried Paul Elliott into a mistake and gained possession to pick out WEST at the far post, who rammed the ball wide of Sealey.

Sunderland went 3-1 down with a bizarre goal in 71 minutes. There was no danger whatsoever when MUNRO turned to lob the ball back to Turner, but the goalkeeper was well off his line and the Roker skipper could only look on in horror as the ball dropped into the empty net.

Turner made a great save in 75 minutes, turning a close range effort from Stein one-handed over the top.

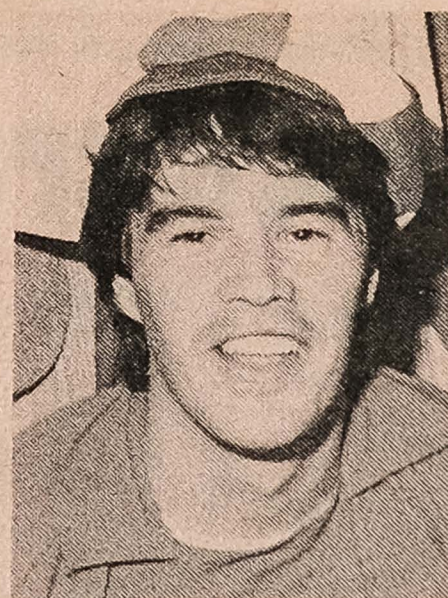
Luton increased their lead in 77 minutes with the Sunderland defence in complete disarray. STEIN found Moss wide on the left and from the winger's centre was well placed to receive the return and head firmly past Turner from close range.

FINAL

LUTON 4
SUNDERLAND 1
Attendance: 10,846.



RICKY HILL, Luton's Player of the Year, put his side ahead against Sunderland at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.



CHRIS TURNER made a first-half penalty save.