



Paul Walsh battles to keep possession for Luton after going down in today's match against Sunderland at Kenilworth Road

PITCH RIOT FEARS PROMPT HEAVY POLICE PATROLS

LUTON v SUNDERLAND
Eric Harris reports

83/84



TREVOR Aylott, recovered from a twisted ankle, was named as substitute for Luton's first home game of the season this afternoon.

Manager David Pleat fielded the same team for the third successive game — and his decision came as no surprise following Wednesday's emphatic victory at Leicester on Wednesday.

The perimeter of the main stand side of the ground was heavily ringed by police and stewards which was seen as a precaution against a possible pitch invasion by anti-Milton Keynes relocation protestors.

Luton won a corner after only 52 seconds and Moss's kick almost produced the first goal when Donaghy ran in to the far post to head just wide under pressure from Munro.

Then Bunn joined the attack but his hurried shot was, like Donaghy's effort, just wide.

All the pressure in the opening minutes came from Luton who made appeals for a penalty when Walsh fell in the area.

It was waved aside by the referee much to Sunderland's relief as the Hatters launched another wave of attacks which ended with the visiting

keeper catching Hill's through ball.

Sunderland's first serious shot came from Pickering in the 6th minute. But it presented no problems to the Town as he directed his effort nearer to the corner flag than Sealey's goal.

Shooting

Sunderland came back and forced their first corner when Stephens pushed Atkinson's cross behind the line. But the corner was wasted in a brief moment of retaliation by the visitors.

The Town's shooting left much to be desired with Horton and Hill both well off target.

The referee was involved in another penalty appeal — and it looked a legitimate claim when Chisholm definitely appeared to handle Moss's cross.

The official's refusal to allow the appeal incensed Luton players as they waited for Moss to resume after receiving treatment for a knock he received in the build-up.

Luton should have gone in front in the 29th minute when they were awarded a penalty when Stein was brought down by Chisolm.

Stein took the kick himself but Turner dived to his left and palmed the ball out. It ran loose to Stephens who blasted the rebound high and wide.

Had Stein successfully converted his penalty it would have provided the Town with a cushion on which to build.

Hesitancy by Wayne Turner could have put Luton behind four minutes later when he allowed Atkinson to try a shot which, fortunately for the Hatters, did not pose serious problems for Sealey.



Luton's David Moss in pain after a clash against Sunderland

HT: Luton 0, Sunderland 0.

The second half opened sensationally when Luton, at long last, went in front.

The goal was made by Moss whose cross presented problems for the Sunderland keeper who was challenged strongly for possession by Walsh.

The keeper failed to gather the ball cleanly and it ran loose to HILL

who promptly smacked it low into the net.

But Sunderland served notice that Luton could not sit on their lead when Pickering forced Sealey to concede a corner which the Town managed to clear under considerable pressure.

Another promising Luton move broke down completely when Stephens, who attempted to find Moss wide on the opposite flank, succeeded only in directing the ball at Chisholm's feet.

Then Hill joined the attack and attempted to work his way around Chisholm but the ball rebounded off the midfield player's legs for a goal kick.

Sunderland still had plenty of attacking ideas and, kicking towards the Oak Road end, won only

their third corner of the match.

The ball was cleared for another flag kick and Rowell's header took deflection for yet another corner.

There could easily have been a second goal for Luton when Hill and Stein combined to create an opening for Moss. The winger successfully won the race for possession with Chris Turner but saw his effort dip just over the bar.

But Luton's badly needed second goal did arrive in the 58th minute.

It was the result of some neat play involving Horton and WALSH which ended with the striker beating two defenders before shooting low past the keeper into the bottom corner of the net.

HOW THEY LINED UP

LUTON TOWN: Sealey, Stephens, Turner (W), Horton, Elliott (P), Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Bunn, Moss. Sub: Aylott.

SUNDERLAND: Turner (C), Veneson, Munro, Atkins, Chisholm, Elliott (S), Pickering, Rowell, West, Proctor, Atkinson. Sub: James.

REFEREE: R. Lewis (Great Bookham).