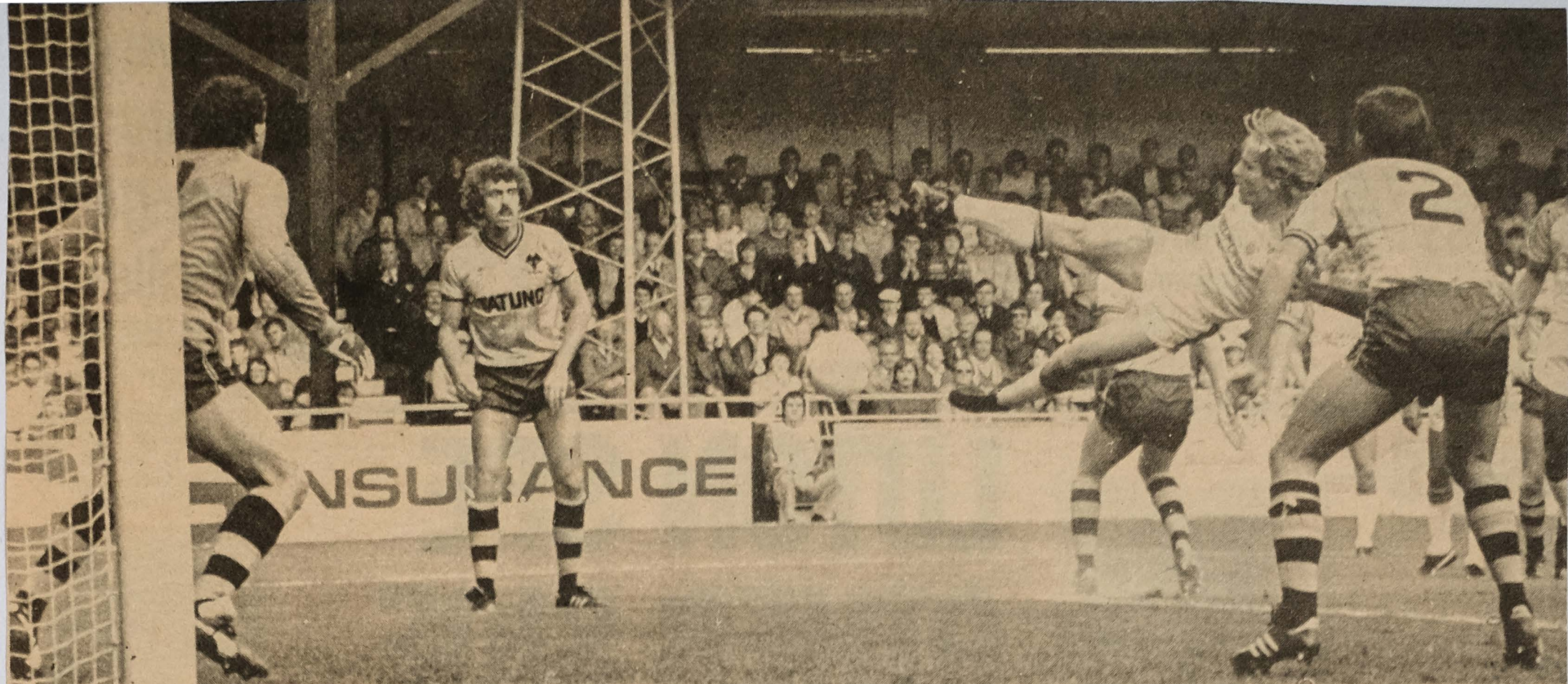




Action from Luton's clash with Wolves at Kenilworth Road this afternoon

UNMARKED WALSH STRIKES TO PUT HATTERS ON TOP

LUTON v WOLVES
Eric Harris reports

TREVOR Aylott won his reward for consistent displays in the reserves by being named as substitute this afternoon.

It was the only change in a team which has been unaltered since the start of the season.

Before the kick-off, an aircraft flew over the stadium towing a huge banner which declared "No to Milton Keynes."

The perimeter of the pitch in the shadow of the main stand was heavily patrolled by police and stewards. Their presence was undoubtedly aimed at deterring any demonstration by anti-Milton Keynes protesters.

Pressure

The first threat to Luton's defence ended with Rudge pushing an intended pass to Towner completely off target as Donaghy made a simple job of mopping up the operation.

In the next minute Towner ruined any hopes Wolves had of taking an early lead when he pushed his cross well behind Sealey's bar.

When Luton retaliated Walsh was knocked off the ball by Dodd, but Stephens' free kick lacked penetration although the ball was worked back to give the Town their first corner after only three minutes.

The Hatters could easily

83/84



have taken a fifth-minute lead when Hill did extremely well to snake a header in Walsh's direction. The striker responded with a fine scissors kick which Burridge tipped over for Luton's second corner.

Stephens and Walsh were involved in the next build-up which ended with Bunn, who was under pressure from two defenders, shooting wide.

Burridge stood head and shoulders above his defence in the Town's early attempts to snatch the lead and produced an unorthodox — but effective — save with his legs from Bunn who had been cleverly pushed clear by Horton.

A free kick, awarded for a foul on Walsh by Pender, provided Luton with their next chance. But Elliott's header, although it carried plenty of power, lacked direction and was easily collected by Burridge.

Wolves were having a rough time although they won their first corner in the 17th minute which ended with Palmer blasting his shot yards over the top.

A minute later Donaghy was led off streaming with blood from what appeared to be a bad head cut. He was taken to the dressing room where the club's doctor stitched the wound.

Wolves continued to offer no threat to Luton's defence. This was emphasised when Humphrey shot wide.

On top

Despite playing with only ten men, there was no doubt that Luton were completely on top and they deservedly went in front in the 23rd minute.

It came from the Town's fourth corner which Moss directed to the near post where WALSH completely unmarked, was left with a simple opportunity to beat Burridge with a header.



CONFRONTATION: Wayne Turner twists aside as Wolves' Dale Rudge closes

Nine minutes after going off, Donaghy returned to put Luton up to their full complement.

The game was developing into one-way traffic with Wolves' defence taking a battering.

Burridge again had to be on his toes to prevent Walsh increasing the Town's lead in a goal-mouth scramble.

But as the first half progressed, there was always the suspicion that Wolves

had the qualities to equalise and Towner was only inches out of position to connect with a cross from the left with his head.

With seven minutes left to half time, a cross from Stephens looked as if it might have provided the possibility of Luton increasing their lead. It was placed firmly in the direction of Bunn, who had joined the attack, but his header was off target.

HT: Luton 1, Wolves 0.

The second half opened with Luton desperately needing another goal to rubber stamp their supremacy on the game.

It could have arrived almost immediately but Moss, who collected Walsh's cross, leaned back too far and hurriedly hooked his shot yards over the bar.

The second goal Luton had so keenly sought finally arrived in the 51st minute.

Moss worked a neat one-two with STEIN who ran on strongly to beat two defenders before pushing his shot low and wide to Burridge's right.

Stein's effort was a much-needed tonic for the Town.

Any hopes Wolves had of forcing their way back into the game were ruined in the 63rd minute when Luton increased their lead.

Turner did irreparable damage to the visitors' defence with a superb wide pass to MOSS, who cleverly beat Palmer before switching direction to beat Burridge with a left-footed shot.

HOW THEY LINED UP

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

WOLVERHAMPTON: Burridge, Humphrey, Palmer, Rudge, Pender, Dodd, Cartwright, Livingstone, Eves, Gray, Towner. Sub: Hibbitt.

REFEREE: D. Letts (Basingstoke).