

GALLANT LUTON TEN ANSWER CHALLENGE

83/84
(FLC)

Rotherham 2 Luton Town 3

TWO GOALS in the first ten minutes of their Milk Cup tie at Millmoor last night did not lead to the expected avalanche which would have enabled the Town to take a handsome lead into the second leg two weeks on Tuesday.

Playing with ten men in the second half after Paul Walsh had been sent off just before the interval, Luton saw their lead erased before Trevor Aylott struck the winner in injury time.

Deprived

Walsh was dismissed when he made a remark to referee Derek Owen after a free kick had been awarded against Luton.

After completely dominating the first half without managing to build on their lead, Luton were the victims of a spirited fight back by Rotherham who took full advantage of Walsh's second half absence.

The Hatters, however, can be reasonably confident of progress to the third round because

ERIC HARRIS WITH LUTON

ROTHERHAM: Stevenson, Forrest, Friar, O'Dell, Johnson, Crosby, Gooding, Kilmore, Seasman, Mitchell, Raynes. Sub: McEwan.

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

ATTENDANCE: 4,035. **REFEREE:** D. Owen (Wirral). **GOALS:** Walsh (3), Bunn (10), Aylott (90); Gooding (66), Kilmore (88).

BOOKINGS: Johnson (foul on Stein), Mitchell (foul on Aylott), Crosby (four on Aylott). **SENDING OFF:** Walsh (foul language).

Rotherham, despite those two goals, rarely posed any real threat to Les Sealey's goal.

Walsh's dismissal deprived a Yorkshire crowd of 4,035, Rotherham's lowest of the season, of the opportunity of watching his skills for another 45 minutes.

After celebrating his 21st birthday on Sunday, Walsh brought the tie alive after only three minutes when Frank Bunn and Brian Stein allowed him the opportunity to beat Alan Stevenson with a shot which entered the net off a post.

Six minutes later, Walsh could easily have knocked in a second with another low shot which, this time,

flew just wide of the post and Stevenson's groping fingers.

But Walsh was behind Luton's second goal in the tenth minute when his clever cross allowed Bunn to hook the ball past the keeper.

At that stage, Rotherham fans feared a massacre. But it never materialised despite the fact that Sealey's only occupation was collecting back passes.

Luton's supremacy, always in evidence during the first half, was emphasised with further close efforts from Aylott and Stein as Rotherham persisted in floating over harmless high crosses.

It took Rotherham 33 minutes to force their first corner but, at that stage, there was nothing to suggest they had the technical ability and tactical knowledge to claw their way back into the game.

Mal Donaghy's full blooded drive in the 52nd minute almost gave Rotherham more problems.

But the strain of playing with ten men began to take its toll and, in the 66th minute, Rotherham pulled one back when Mick Gooding's low drive gave the home side their first goal in four matches.

There were only two minutes left when Kevin Kilmore capitalised on Gooding's precision pass to beat Sealey for a goal which must have convinced Rotherham they were going into the second leg all square.

Luton, however, still had one ace up their sleeve. It came in the form of a stunning goal by Aylott,



FRANK BUNN . . . scored Luton's second goal