

SEALEY HARD-PRESSED TO KEEP OUT EVERTON



Hatters keeper Les Sealey: under pressure

DAVID Moss returned to the Luton team at Goodison Park this afternoon after missing one match with a hamstring injury.

Trevor Aylott was the unlucky player to drop out to make way for Moss's return.

The substitute's position went to fullback Mitchell Thomas.

Heavy rain before the kick-off left the surface extremely slippery and also hit the attendance which was not expected to meet Everton's average.

Everton manager Howard Kendall included former Luton player Andy King in his side with

EVERTON v LUTON Eric Harris reports

Kevin Richardson dropping to substitute.

The opening pressure came from Everton with Sheedy making the first impression with a headed effort which he directed over the bar.

The first time Luton penetrated Everton's half

ended with Sharp fouling Stein. But the free kick was wasted and pushed over the line for a throw to Everton.

Donaghy then did well to push the ball back to Sealey as Everton attacked again with King running in strongly.

Stein attempted to create a shooting opportunity for Horton by turning the

HOW THEY LINED UP

EVERTON: Southall, Harper, Bailey, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Reid, Steven, Heath, Sharp, King, Sheedy. Sub: Richardson.

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

REFEREE: J. Hough (Macclesfield).



ball back to the Luton skipper.

But Horton failed to control the flight of the ball and pushed his effort weakly wide.

Donaghy rescued Luton again with a strong challenge on Heath which gave Everton nothing more than a throw.

Luton could easily have found themselves a goal down after only eight minutes when Sealey produced an excellent save to prevent Steven giving Everton the lead with a low drive.

Everton were still on top and forced their first corner in the 11th minute which Sealey punched clear.

But the ball travelled only as far as Steven who pushed over another cross which took a deflection from Sharp to give the Town a goalkick.

Luton, however, came back to force their first corner in the 15th minute.

Moss pushed his kick well away from Southall's line but Donaghy ruined the finish by blasting his effort yards over the top.

There was an anxious moment for Luton a couple of minutes later when Elliott's foul on Sharp gave Everton a free kick a yard outside the area.

It could have produced a goal but the five man move ended with the Town being given another goalkick.

The incident brought the game's first booking when Heath was cautioned for dissent.

Both teams were having difficulty keeping their feet on the saturated surface and a change of studs would be a strong possibility at half time.

It took Luton 25 minutes to pose the first serious threat to Everton's defence when Hill's rising drive from the edge of the area was not far off target.

Moss was involved in the Town's next attack when, with Walsh in support on his left, the winger tried a shot which did not cause any problems to Southall.

Everton continued to look the side more likely to bring the game to life and Steven almost did just that with a dangerous shot

which took a deflection to give the home side their second corner.

But it was Luton who should have taken the lead in the 33rd minute.

It was a well-worked move and started by Bunn who sent Moss clear on the right. He pushed over a fine cross to the far post where Walsh was perfectly placed.

He was only six yards out but leaned back too far and blazed the ball over the top.

It was a mistake Luton may have later regretted.

Everton must have wondered if they were ever going to score after another effort, this time from Sharp, was tipped over by Sealey.

HT: Everton 0, Luton 0.

Everton opened the second half as they ended the first — on attack when they won another corner.

But the move broke down when the Town were awarded a free kick.

Everton had another opportunity of going in front when Sharp pushed another effort wide — and Sealey immediately showed his anger with his colleagues for allowing the shot to materialise.

Sharp was proving a handful for Elliott and the Luton defender was again penalised for a foul as Everton came forward again.

There was no let up in Everton's search for the game's first goal and Sheedy almost did the trick with a riding drive.

Walsh ruined another promising Luton move by running into an offside position to collect Hill's accurate pass.

Then Stein did exactly the same thing when he ran on to Stephens's short pass.

Donaghy had to come to Luton's rescue again when he just managed to win the race for possession with Heath to slide the ball away for another Everton corner.

Luton's defence had so far managed to cope with anything Everton threw at it.

But a bad back pass from Donaghy to his keeper could have had disastrous consequences.