

Midfield man Jol sent off as . . . Blind-alley Albion sent packing again

Martin Jol was sent off as West Bromwich Albion crashed to another defeat against high-flying Luton Town at Kenilworth Road yesterday.

The 28-year-old former Dutch international was given his marching orders after collecting his second booking for a foul on Luton captain Brian Horton.

Jol was running off the pitch virtually before referee Michael Taylor, from Dover, had produced his book, realising that his 67th minute exit from a shambling contest was inevitable.

The long-legged midfield man had received his first booking after only seven

By IAN WILLARS

Luton 2, West Bromwich Albion 0

minutes for a late tackle on Hill and the second offence, for a technicality, just had to follow.

Albion were already two goals adrift when Jol departed with their injury-hit side never looking like reversing their recent abysmal run in which they had won only one of their previous six outings.

The game started to slip away from them three minutes before half time when Horton scored from the penalty spot after Zondervan and Luke had been adjudged to have upended Daniel as the young winger raced through.

It was a cruel twist for Albion, though, for Jol had clearly been obstructed in

midfield by Hill as Luton launched their raid.

There was a dispute about Luton's goal from Aylott as well when the big striker lofted a 65th minute drive over goalkeeper Barron's head into the far corner after a reverse pass from Daniel.

The linesman's flag had gone up for offside on the far side of the pitch against Hill, but the referee apparently ruled that he was not interfering with play.

Albion's inept display, even allowing for their injuries, and the suspensions of Owen and Thompson, still left a lot to be desired. Apart from Jol, they also had Cross booked for an unfair challenge on goalkeeper Sealey while Barron collected a caution for dissent.

Luton had centre half Elliott booked for a late tackle on Regis, whose return to the side was a somewhat gentle affair after his eight-game injury lay-off.

The powerful striker never really got into his stride but he should have earned Albion a penalty in the 39th minute when Elliott charged into him from behind as he moved on to a pass from Morley.

Referee Taylor decided that Regis had already lost the ball at the time but it was a very debatable decision and one of many which went against Albion.

But Albion seemed to be in a blind alley. The majority of their players do not know, or cannot comprehend, the playing pattern.

Manager Ron Wylie has finally secured his winger in Morley to provide an aerial service for Regis. But strangely, not once did the former Villa man land a worthwhile centre in the Luton area.

Luton: Sealey; Stephens, Thomas, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Aylott, Daniel.

West Bromwich Albion: Barron; Zondervan, Cowdrill, Luke, McNaught, Forsyth, Jol, Lewis, Regis, Cross, Morley.



CONFRONTATION . . . referee Michael Taylor takes Martin Jol's name for a first half foul, the prelude to his dismissal after the interval.



CONFRONTATION . . . Albion's Nicky Cross tangles with Mal Donaghy, the Luton No. 6, and the ball squirts away from them both.