

CHEERS TO HAPPY END

SUNDERLAND.....2 LUTON TOWN.....0 ^{83/84}

SUNDERLAND started the New Year celebrations early by completely outplaying Luton Town at Roker Park this afternoon and avenge their heavy defeat earlier this season.

Luton had created the better chances but it was a different tale after the break when Sunderland, with the advantage of a strong breeze, threatened to run riot.

Gordon Chisholm opened the scoring in 54 minutes with a powerful header and six minutes later the determination of veteran coach Bryan Robson set up the chance for Nick Pickering to get the second goal. Lee Chapman made an encouraging debut and his partnership with Colin West is going to cause problems to a few more defences in the near future.

Sunderland made one change to Tuesday's winning side, Chapman taking over from Bryan Robson who was moved to substitute. Manager Alan Durban decided not to risk leading goalscorer Gary Rowell.

Kirk Stephens and Trevor Aylott failed late fitness tests so Luton were forced to make a couple of changes. Rob Thompson came in at right back for Stephens and Frank Bunn took over for Aylott in attack.

Sunderland lost the toss and were set the task of facing a stiff breeze in attacking the Fulwell End.

Atkins failed to get any distance behind his attempt to hit the ball deep into the Luton half which was an early indication of the strength of the breeze. The Sunderland skipper was pulled up for a challenge on Stein but Turner was unchallenged when gathering the free kick from Turner.

Luton missed a great chance of going ahead in the eighth minute when Hill sent Walsh clear and with Venison struggling to challenge, the Luton striker was denied by Turner who spread himself to turn the ball behind for a corner from which Horton fired a rasping drive which was beaten down by Turner.

Luton were certainly lively on the break and Chisholm had to concede a corner when the overlapping Johnson sent over a dangerous centre. Turner however had no problems dealing with the inswinger from Walsh.

The referee had a stern word with Bunn for bringing down Shaun Elliott. Neat play by Chisholm found Proctor who moved the ball out to Pickering

Goal lines

CHISHOLM 54min
PICKERING 60min

THE TEAMS

SUNDERLAND	LUTON TOWN
1 Turner C	1 Sealey
2 Venison	2 Johnson
3 Pickering	3 Turner W
4 Atkins	4 Horton
5 Chisholm	5 Elliott P
6 Elliott S	6 Donaghy
7 Bracewell	7 Hill
8 Chapman	8 Stein
9 West	9 Walsh
10 Proctor	10 Bunn
11 James	11 Daniel
Sub: Robson	Sub: Antic
Ref. Mr A. Robinson (Radcliffe, Greater Manchester)	

and though he had plenty of time the youngster sent his cross harmlessly into the crowd.

Venison made a tremendous interception when Hill looked like sending Walsh clear and it was from the clearance that Bracewell centred for Chapman to tussle with Johnson.

AMAZING ESCAPE

Atkins drove a free kick to the far post where Paul Elliott met the ball just ahead of Chapman to clear and then another free kick came Sunderland's way when Donaghy barged into the back of West. Sealey had to come a long way from his line to punch James's free kick clear but only as far as Pickering who forced a left wing corner which was headed out by Bunn.

The Luton goal had an amazing escape in 38 minutes when a James cross found West unmarked in the

six yard box but somehow he failed to find the target with his header.

Two minutes later Sealey produced a magnificent save turning a 25 yard left footed drive from Bracewell over the top.

James who had switched flanks, took on Horton to sent a dipping drive just too high and after saying something to the Luton skipper he was booked by referee Robinson some of whose decisions were baffling to say the least.

A low drive from James was sliced behind for a corner by Donaghy.

Sealey had to come racing out of his box to prevent Bracewell from reaching a Proctor through ball.

Chapman did well to keep the ball in play to give Pickering a chase. He too was at full stretch when getting to the bye line and just failing to pick up West at the far post. Two long throws from Bracewell and a corner from James brought to a close a disappointing half, spoilt by the wind.

HALF TIME

SUNDERLAND 0
LUTON TOWN 0

James, who limped off at half time failed to appear after the break and Pop Robson came on as sub taking up a position wide on the right.

A bold run by Pickering looked promising until Paul Elliott headed out. Two long throw ins from Bracewell kept up the pressure and then West was brought down by Johnson 30 yards out. The free kick was knocked sideways to Proctor whose fierce drive was beaten out by Sealey for the onrushing Chapman to head the rebound over the top.

Johnson needed treatment off the field when challenged by Pickering to a ball down the wing. Luton continued to play with ten men as a fierce drive from Chisholm was deflected behind, and Bracewell's inswinger was too close to Sealey to trouble the goalkeeper.

Sunderland went ahead in 54 minutes when a deep cross from the right by Bracewell was met by a powerful run by CHISHOLM who directed his header just inside Sealey's left hand post with the goalkeeper well beaten.

Bracewell lifted a fierce left footed drive just too high before Luton brought in Antic for the injured Johnson in 58 minutes.

In the next minute Walsh, who disputed a free kick decision after bringing down Bracewell was booked.

Sunderland went further ahead in 60 minutes with a tremendous goal from PICKERING. A long throw in from Bracewell on the left was forced out to the other side and it was the determined challenge of



Sunderland striker COLIN WEST (left) and Luton defender MAL DONAGHY compete for a header in this afternoon's First Division match at Roker Park.

Robson which led to Pickering gaining possession and closing in to hit a fierce left foot drive from an acute angle past Sealey.

Stein was booked in 66 minutes for a late challenge on Atkins who needed treatment before being able to resume.

Turner, who had rarely been in the action in the second period, was pressed into making an acrobatic catch to a Walsh centre following good work by Bunn.

It was Sunderland, however, who were calling the tune with determination seeing them through with Robson and Chapman playing a leading part up front.

In 77 minutes a Robson centre was knocked down by West for Proctor to bring the ball under control and close in and thump a fierce drive inches too high and within seconds Chapman curled an 18 yard effort into the arms of Sealey.

In the 79th minute Horton was booked for dissent, after Walsh had been penalized for holding Pickering. Venison, who starts a two match ban after today's game moved forward to shoot narrowly wide with a powerful drive.

Chapman did well to get the ball out to the overlapping Pickering, who shrugged off Paul Elliott's challenge and crossed hard and low into the middle where Bracewell's outstretched leg almost produced goal number three. The ball was deflected behind and from the corner Chapman steamed in to head inches too high.

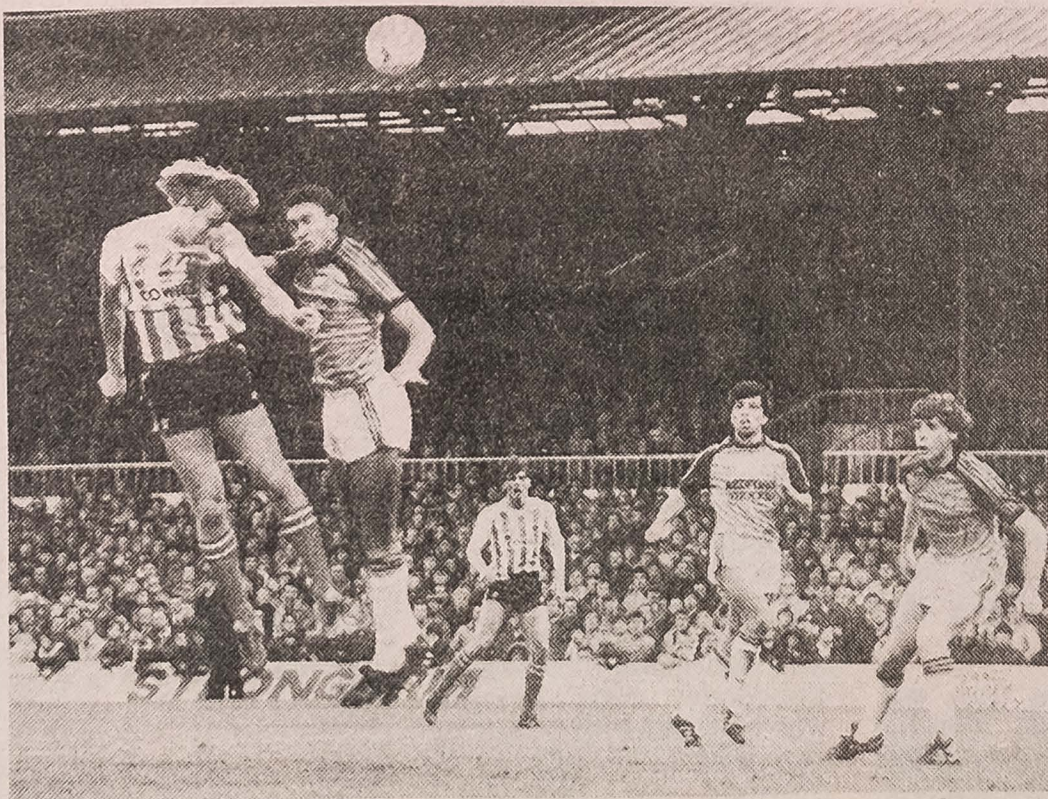
In the 88th minute Pickering was streaking clear when Donaghy hauled him down from behind and he was promptly booked.

Another bold run by Pickering led to Bracewell bringing Sealey to his knees with a powerful low drive.

Final

SUNDERLAND 2
LUTON TOWN 0

Attendance: 19,482



Sunderland's debut striker LEE CHAPMAN powers in a header in this afternoon's match against Luton.