

ROKER STORM TO WIN

ALTHOUGH without key players due to injury and suspension, Sunderland stormed to their most convincing win of this season against a very ordinary looking Luton Town at Roker Park this afternoon.

Gordon Chisholm gave Sunderland a first half lead with his first goal of the season and when Rodger Wylde was on target early in the second period from the penalty spot the result was always a foregone conclusion.

Nick Pickering added a third although Luton had their moments through the dangerous Brian Stein. Chris Turner was rarely tested in a sound Sunderland defence in which none did better than Peter Daniel in the uncustormary role of right back.

Geoff Storey reports from Roker Park

Goal lines

CHISHOLM 16 min.
WYLDE (pen) 53 min.
PICKERING 76 min.

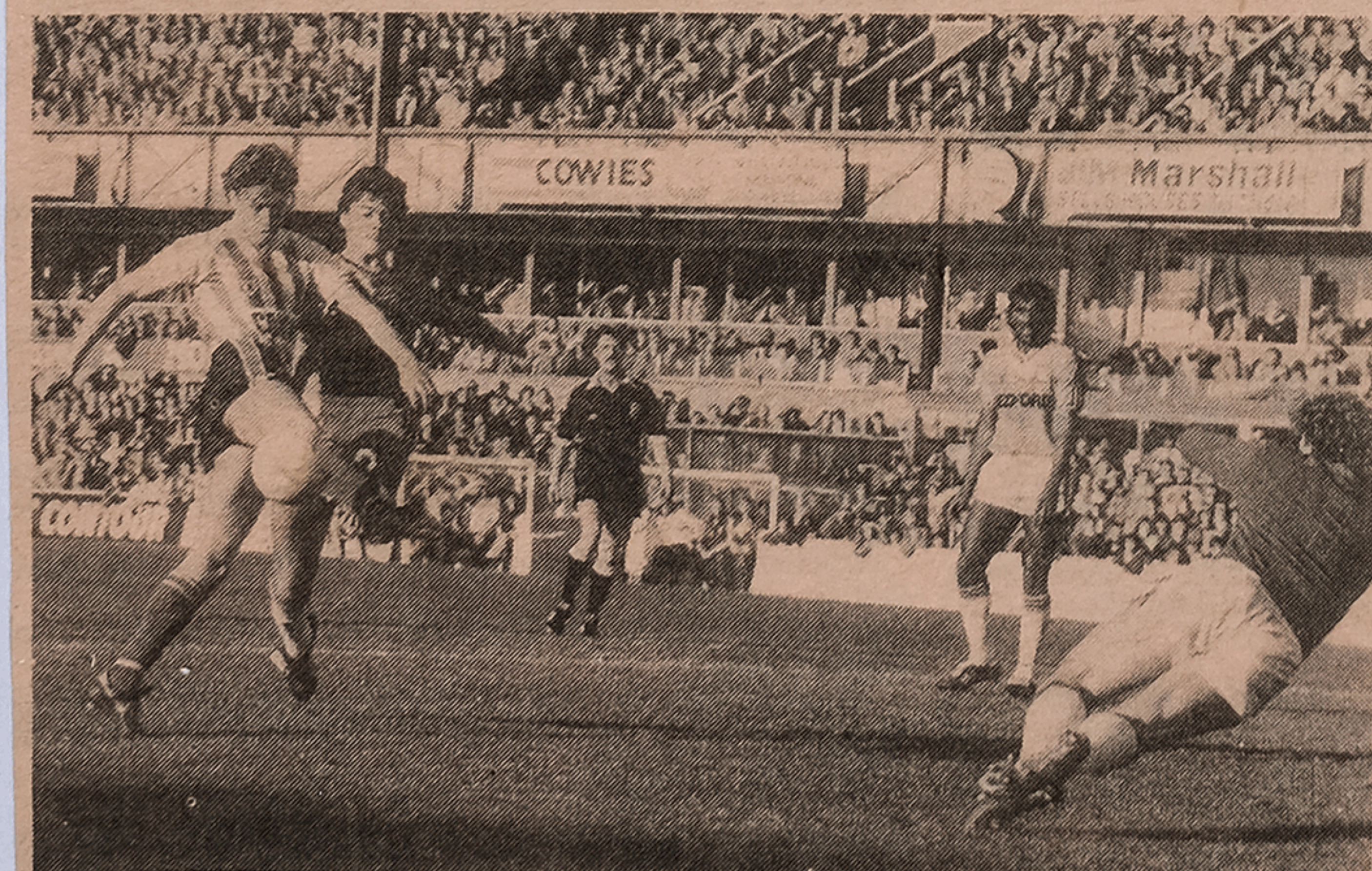


SHAUN ELLIOTT, making his 300th appearance for Sunderland, was one of three Elliotts in action at Roker Park this afternoon.

THE TEAMS

SUNDERLAND	LUTON
1 Turner C	1 Findlay
2 Daniel	2 Thomas
3 Pickering	3 Turner W
4 Berry	4 Parker
5 Chisholm	5 Elliott (Paul)
6 Elliott (Shaun)	6 Donaghy
7 Gayle	7 Hill
8 Wylde	8 Stein
9 Atkinson	9 Elliott (Steve)
10 Proctor	10 Bunn
11 Hodgson	11 Hilaire
Sub: West	Sub: Baker

Ref. Mr D. J. Hough (Macclesfield).



STEVE BERRY is foiled with this goalscoring attempt for Sunderland against Luton at Roker Park.

Shaun Elliott made his 300th league and cup appearance for a Sunderland side showing three changes. Barry Venison and Clive Walker were ruled out through suspension and Gary Bennett with a troublesome Achilles tendon injury. David Hodgson returned after two months absence, the former Liverpool striker having recovered from a pelvic strain. Into a reshuffled line up came Rodger Wylde and Paul Atkinson while Peter Daniel switched to right back.

BOBBY AND TREVOR WATCHING

England manager Bobby Robson and former Roker striker Trevor Ford were present when an unchanged Luton side kicked off attacking the Fulwell end.

Wylde immediately intercepted and after Pickering had been forced to play the ball back to Shaun Elliott, the full back receiving from Proctor, was foiled by Thomas as he attempted to break clear.

Proctor found Atkinson and after the youngster's cross had been forced out he tried again and Wayne Turner was content to head behind.

From the corner Atkinson regained possession and Wylde sent a diving header just past the upright when the youngster curled the ball in again.

Both trainers were called on in the fifth minute with Wylde and Bunn needing minor treatment before play resumed with a goal kick to the visitors.

Steve Elliott neatly evaded a challenge from his namesake to push forward and then beat the diving Turner with a low drive which flashed just past the upright.

Sunderland grabbed the lead in 16 minutes with Chisholm's first goal of the season. A free kick from Proctor was turned in by Daniel and knocked down by Pickering and Proctor was involved again before CHISHOLM stepped forward to drive the ball home.

Daniel was brought down when cutting in from the by line without being awarded a penalty and then Sunderland could well have gone further ahead in 20 minutes. A great through ball from Atkinson was pursued by Wylde and though Findlay raced from his goal and looked favourite to get their first, the goalkeeper completely miskicked his attempted clearance. Before Wylde could capitalize on an open goal Thomas and Paul Elliott got back to clear.

OFF THE LINE

The Luton goal bore a charmed life again in the 25th minute with Berry racing clear only for Findlay to block his shot with his legs. From the rebound Wylde's shot was blocked only as far as Atkinson. The youngster steadied himself for the shot which was turned off the line by Thomas.

The persistence of Berry almost had a second goal for Sunderland in 38 minutes. The midfielder forced his way into a promising position and then laid the ball into the path of Wylde whose fierce drive was turned behind by Findlay in fine style.

In the next minute Thomas was booked for a challenge on Gayle.

After Chisholm had set off on a promising run only for his final pass to be intercepted Luton again moved

84/85
SUNDERLAND..... 3 LUTON TOWN..... 0



GORDON CHISHOLM'S first goal of the season gives Sunderland a 16th minute lead at home to Luton.

dangerously forward with Chris Turner going down bravely at the feet of Steve Elliott to cut out a left wing cross from Hilaire.

In injury time Sunderland could well have increased their lead when from a left wing cross from Atkinson, Hodgson headed back at the far post into the path of Gayle who lifted his first time drive over the top.

HALF-TIME

SUNDERLAND 1
LUTON TOWN 0

Pickering conceded a free kick just inside his own half for climbing on to the back of Stein and when this had been easily intercepted Daniel found Proctor with a great pass. Proctor brought in Pickering and after taking a return pass then tried to bring in Daniel again, Hill intercepted to set up Hilaire whose low swirling drive was collected at the foot of the upright by Chris Turner.

Gayle and then Hodgson were pulled up for over-enthusiastic challenges and then a flick by Gayle almost let in Wylde whose first time effort was charged down.

With Luton threatening on the break, the crowd were becoming restless at Sunderland's attempts to make the points safe.

Sunderland, however, increased their lead in the 53rd minute. Atkinson stormed into the box to hit a low drive which was pushed aside by Findlay. As Gayle challenged for the rebound he was brought down by Thomas. The referee immediately pointed to the spot and WYLDE stepped forward to easily beat Findlay.

In the 55th minute Gayle clashed with Donaghy and after receiving attention from the trainer the Sunderland striker was booked. In the next minute Wayne Turner was pulled up for holding back Gayle and from the free kick Chisholm was pulled up for pushing at the far post.

Daniel got in an important headed clearance at the far post in 60 minutes as Luton threatened to reduce the deficit. Steve Elliott found the overlapping Stein whose cross was destined for the unmarked Hilaire until Daniel's timely interception.

In 63 minutes Hodgson was booked for throwing the ball away after a free kick had gone Luton's way and at this stage Luton brought on Baker for Parker. From the free kick Luton were unlucky not to pull a goal back. As Chisholm went up with Paul Elliott it was difficult to judge whose header thundered against the bar and behind but there was no doubt in the referee's mind as a corner kick was awarded.

A casual overhit pass by Proctor left Atkinson with too much to do much to the annoyance of the crowd. In 73rd minute the Luton trainer was again called into action to attend to Thomas who resumed after treatment.

Sunderland made certain of the three points with a third goal in 76 minutes. Berry shrugged off two tackles but just as he was shaping up to shoot the ball was taken off his toe by Gayle whose fierce drive was palmed out by Findlay. PICKERING was quick to react and from a difficult angle rammed the ball home.

In 82 minutes West came on for Gayle who received a great ovation as he left the field. The substitute was quickly in action, receiving from Wylde to cross deep to the far post where Proctor's header caused panic in the visitors' defence before Paul Elliott brought the ball clear.

FINAL

SUNDERLAND 3
LUTON TOWN 0

Attendance: 15,280.