

Liverpool 3, Luton 2

LIVERPOOL did all they could to close that huge points gap on leaders Manchester United, but until they sort out defensive problems no-one would risk money on them catching up, writes Don Smith.

Luton exploited these weaknesses — notably a dramatic loss of form by goalkeeper Grobbelaar — which spread a plague of leaking confidence among fellow defenders.

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In a remarkable second half fight back Luton looked capable of great achievements like matching the recent draw with Manchester United and maybe even snatching their first ever win at Anfield, but the task was just beyond them.

Paul Walsh, the striker sold to Liverpool 18 months ago, had already done major damage. In a splendid five-minute spell midway through the first half he drove the ball through the keeper's legs and first-timed a close range shot into the net for two goals and volleyed a third opportunity inches wide of the post.

Luton's fight back began on the half time resumption when centre back Foster, freed from his penalty area prison for a corner, stabbed the ball into the Liverpool goal after Grobbelaar failed to hold it. Soon afterwards the keeper remained rooted when a Preece free kick scraped the bar and he was booked a minute later for throwing the ball away after another free kick was awarded to Luton.

Molby restored Liverpool's two goal lead with a superbly struck free kick, but Grobbelaar was again slow to react when Harford hit a second Luton goal off the inside of the post.