

Frozen North is Luton's saviour

Ipswich 1, Luton Town 1

A LATE goal by Mark North gave Luton a deserved share of the spoils at a frozen Ipswich yesterday afternoon.

North pounced on a flick by David Preece to grab the goal just eight minutes from time and cancel out an early goal by Nigel Gleghorn for Ipswich.

Steve Foster's knee injury gave young Stacey North an unexpected chance of First Division action after his recent loan period at Wolves.

Mark North retained his place in the forward line with Rob Johnson sitting in as substitute.

The Portman Road pitch had a layer of frost and presented a problem for Luton's defence early on. They got off to a disastrous start. In the seventh minute, Mel Donaghy lost his sense of positioning as Kevin Wilson burst through and it needed a brilliant save by Les Sealey to prevent an early goal.

And in the 10th minute, Ipswich did take the lead after Stacey North had hauled down Wilson 25 yards out.

Jason Dozzell's short kick let in the unmarked Nigel Gleghorn to drive a low shot under Sealey's body at the near post.

For 10 minutes after this,

Report by Greg Fountain

Ipswich threatened to run riot but Luton held out and gradually forced their way back into the game. In the 15th minute, Preece floated a free kick which saw Harford's header saved by 'keeper Cooper and, moments later, Harford again connected with a Preece cross. But his efforts flew over.

Then a long throw by Stacey North was half cleared by Dozzell and Preece's shot from the edge of the box was inches over. On the half hour, a goalmouth scramble let in Mark North but his close range shot was somehow cleared off the line by Butcher. Harford headed the rebound wide.

At the other end, Ipswich could have extended their lead when a right wing cross from Brennan was headed



Mark North... grabbed the equaliser.

wide by the unmarked D'Avray.

In the last five minutes of the half, Luton came close to an equaliser when Stein missed with a free header from six yards after a fine jinking run and cross by Thomas.

Ipswich started the second half as they had the first by causing pandemonium in the Luton defence. Donaghy's disastrous back header let D'Avray in to beat Sealey, but Stacey North raced in to clear off the line.

In the same move, D'Avray recovered the ball and squared it for Wilson to shoot narrowly wide.

Luton then settled down and enjoyed a period of



Stacey North... strong in defence.

pressure. Twice Brian Stein was clear in the box but he failed to finish and Thomas was a constant threat down the left. In the 70th minute, confusion in the Ipswich defence gave Mark North the chance to round Cooper but somehow he allowed the 'keeper to recover and make a save.

Two minutes later a Breacker cross was headed down by Harford and Stein missed from six yards.

Ipswich: Cooper, Yallop, McCall, Gleghorn, Cranson, Butcher, Stockwell, Brennan, D'Avray, Wilson, Dozzell. Sub: Sunderland.
Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Thomas, Nicholas, Stacey North, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford, Mark North, Preece. Sub: Johnson.