

LUTON MAKE MARK

By GERRY HARRISON: Ipswich 1, Luton 1

MARK NORTH'S late equaliser scraped a point for Luton after a storming performance against a patchwork Ipswich side.

But manager David Pleat wasn't bothered about the two points that got away. "We've rarely attacked in numbers as well as that," he said.

"We are very self-critical but we were good on a pitch which was frozen in the middle and soft on the outside. I am not disappointed to get a point against a side fighting for their lives."

And Ipswich fought with bags of character. They were without four experienced midfield players and their problems increased with injuries to full back Yallop and centre-half Cranson during the game.

Cranson missed the second half and the Ipswich reshuffle brought striker D'Avray back to fill the hole in defence.

But the leadership of Butcher and the spirit of the side put surrender out of the question.

An early goal from former fireman Nigel Gleghorn gave Ipswich extra heart for the fight. Loose marking at a free kick left Gleghorn with plenty of room to cut in and score from a narrow angle.

Booked

Brennan and Dozzell had reasonable chances and D'Avray's shot was cleared off the line by Stacey North.

Nicholas and Preece were strong in midfield, Stein looked particularly sharp, and Thomas rampaged forward impressively.

But Stein spoiled an exciting performance by squandering a couple of chances and the finishing was not up to standard.

To add to Luton's frustrations Harford was booked for the sixth time this season.

But they got it right in the end. Preece chipped a neat pass into the area for 20-year-old Mark North to strike it first time past Cooper.

IPSWICH: Cooper 7—Yallop 7, Cranson (inj) 7, ★BUTCHER 8, McCall 7—Stockwell 5, Dozzell 6, Brennan 6, Gleghorn 7—Wilson 6, D'Avray 6. Sub: Sunderland 6.

LUTON: Sealey 7—Breacker 7, North(S) 7, Donaghy 7, Thomas 7—Hill 7, Nicholas 7, ★PREECE 8—Stein 7, Harford 6, North (M) 6. Ref: A. Gunn (Burgess Hill) 7.

SCORCHER

FORMER fireman Nigel Gleghorn scaled new heights to keep the Ipswich revival going.

The 23-year-old midfielder man cracked the second goal of his brief career to ease the relegation fears of Bobby Ferguson's side, who have lost just two of their last seven games.

Ferguson paid just £1,500 to non-League Blue Star for the Geordie firefighter in September. And Gleghorn has already repaid that.

His latest contribution to the Ipswich cause came after ten minutes when he blasted home a scorcher from Jason Dozzell's free kick.

It was the second time Luton had been found wanting in defence. Only four minutes earlier, Mark Brennan had been allowed

Ipswich 1,
Luton 1

By MARK IRWIN

to run free from his own half before his shot was smothered by 'keeper Les Sealey.

Yet once the visitors had adjusted to life without injured skipper Steve Foster, they should have buried Ferguson's youngsters.

Blunders

Instead, they had to wait until the 82nd minute before Mark North stabbed home a welcome equaliser.

Luton's chief culprit was leading scorer Brian Stein, who missed a hat-trick of chances.

His first blunder came just before half-time, when

he headed wide from six yards; and twice after the break he was off target with only Paul Cooper to beat.

North was also out of luck with a goalbound effort which was bundled off the line by Ian Cranson.

The real hero of Ipswich's fighting performance was skipper Terry Butcher, celebrating his 27th birthday in stirring style.

Out of action for three months with a knee injury, he is now nearing the kind of form which makes him far and away England's best centre half.

His handling of Luton danger man Mick Harford was a decisive factor and even the loss of defensive partner Cranson at half-time failed to shake his composure.

Man of the Match: Terry Butcher (Ipswich).

Harford row

by PHILIP OSBORN

Ipswich 1 Luton 1

But Luton manager David Pleat was quick to defend Harford. "He is as fair a player as you will find in the First Division. He isn't nasty in any way," said Pleat.

Mark North, who started his career as a goalkeeper, registered his fourth goal in six games to salvage a point for Luton.

Reward

Until his equaliser eight minutes from time Ipswich looked like maintaining their recent revival, but, late as it was, North's effort was just reward for Luton's fluent, imaginative football.

Ipswich went ahead in the tenth minute when Stacey North, deputising for the injured Steve Foster, tripped Kevin Wilson. From the free kick Jason Dozzell set up Gleghorn who scored with an angled drive.

They had little chance to savour it as David Preece, Mitchell Thomas and Brian Stein put Luton in control.

In the 29th minute Mark



MICK HARFORD

North thought he had scored with a close-range drive until it hit Cranson on the line and just before the interval Stein incredibly missed a header five yards out. Ipswich 'keeper Paul Cooper then saved magnificently from a Harford header. Stein sent several shots wide and also blasted one over the bar from six yards before North did the trick.

IPSWICH.—Cooper; Yallop, McCall, Gleghorn, Cranson, Butcher, Stockwell, Brennan, D'Avray, Wilson, Dozzell. Sub: Sunderland.

LUTON.—Sealey; Breacker, Thomas, Nicholas, S North, Donaghy, Hall, Stein, Harford, M North, Preece. Sub: Johnson.