

GLEGHORN GIVES TOWN EARLY LIFT

BUT NORTH SAVES HATTERS

GIVEN the lead in the 10th minute when Nigel Gleghorn hit his first home goal for the club, relegation battling Ipswich Town in the end had to be content with a point against Luton Town at Portman Road this afternoon.

Mark North provided the Hatters' leveller eight minutes from time in a second period when the visitors had pinned Ipswich back in their own half for much of the time.

Gleghorn's opener was a well-struck left-foot effort after a free-kick smartly taken by Dozzell, but the hardworking and courageous home team were up against it more in the second-half after having to take off Cranson at the interval because of a head injury.

Town kept the side which won 1-0 at Coventry on Boxing Day and this meant that Stockwell was making his home debut in midfield. Sunderland was again substitute.

Luton showed one change from the team which won 2-1 at West Bromwich Albion in midweek. They were without skipper Foster and into the defence came Stacey North.

It was a very cold and frosty afternoon and the middle of the pitch had a whitish covering following the overnight big freeze. Fortunately, both goalmouths were clear of frost.

Town began attacking the North Stand end and early on Butcher had to concede a corner from an effort by Har-

ford. Brennan took the flag kick and after Cooper had punched clear Stockwell got his first touch on his home debut as he came away with

By Dave Allard

the ball in a spirited piece of play.

In the tricky midfield conditions both sides were doing their best to put together entertaining football in this opening period and in the fourth minute McCall and Wilson com-

bined to provide a cross which Donaghy did well to head clear.

Brennan provided a superb piece of entertaining play two

minutes later when he broke upfield on his own from the halfway line after Wilson had cleverly laid the ball off.

The young Town midfield player went straight for goal but was defied by Sealey who

raced from his line to brilliantly block the shot.

Picked out

A foul by Stacey North on Wilson led to Ipswich taking the lead in the tenth minute when GLEGHORN scored his second goal for the club and his first in a home match.

From the free kick which was awarded just outside the penalty box in the middle, Dozzell picked out Gleghorn who was unmarked on the left.

The perfectly weighted

pass was controlled by the left foot of Gleghorn who made ground before pummelling a low drive underneath the body of the diving Sealey.

It was a dream start for the home side but they had to close ranks soon after and make do with ten men for a brief spell when Yallop had to receive treatment on the far touchline. Substitute Sunderland warmed up but was not required as the young right-back came back on after treatment.

Luton had their first serious threat at goal when Cooper had to save a shot from Mark North while, soon after, a left foot effort on the turn by Harford after a cross by Preece gave the visiting supporters from Bedfordshire something to cheer.

From a throw in by Stacey North in the 21st minute an attempted clearance by Dozzell went only as far as Preece who blasted a left-foot effort just over the crossbar.

Soon after Hill fed Stein and he went wide of the far post for a Luton team who were now beginning to put their game together in a far more threatening manner.

Gleghorn fed Wilson down the left and Donaghy did well to head clear the striker's left-foot centre. Gleghorn and Wilson combined again not long after to present Dozzell with a half chance but the 18-year-old saw an effort deflected wide for a corner.

A horrendous mistake near his own goalline at the near



● Kevin Wilson holds off a Luton defender as Town mount another attack.

post by McCall presented Mark North with a good scoring opportunity and the Luton supporters were gasping as the visiting striker's shot cannoned off Cranson.

D'Avray was spoken to by the referee for a bit of dissent and was not far off earning what would have been his fifth booking of the season. In the 31st minute D'Avray was being noticed for footballing matters when he planted a header just wide of the woodwork following a pin-point cross by the hardworking Brennan.

While D'Avray had escaped the caution his opposite number in the white of Luton, Harford, did go into the notebook in the 32nd minute for something he uttered to referee Gunn.

Hill went wide after good work by Stein and a minute

later good defensive play by Yallop relieved the pressure for Town after a long ball pumped forward by Stacey North.

Gleghorn did well to wriggle past Breaker and get into a crossing position on the left, after a good ball from Brennan. Gleghorn was held back by Breaker but the referee waved play on. However, there was no let-off for Luton as McCall got in on the act, bursting past Breaker only to be let down by a weak cross.

A weak cross by Wilson in the 40th minute after good Gleghorn work was a waste for Town who were beginning to find some of the Luton attacks a real handful.

In the 41st minute the visitors should have equalised

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■ TOWN'S EARLY STRIKER. Luton 'keeper Sealey is beaten by a shot from Nigel Gleghorn, to give Town a tenth minute lead. Town players watching are Kevin Wilson, Steve McCall and Mich D'Avray.