

Foster's boob lets Everton in for a second chance

Luton 2, Everton 2

Report by
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A remarkable fightback from League champions, and last year's Cup Finalist's, Everton kept their double hopes alive at Kenilworth Road, in a see-saw cup-tie.

The Hatters had seemed well on course to revenging last year's defeat at the hands of the Merseysiders after Mick Harford and Mark Stein had given them a valuable two goal lead. But Everton, being the team they are, forced a replay at Goodison Park on Wednesday, through Sharp and Heath.

The atmosphere was electric on a sunny, mild afternoon as Hill quickly demonstrated a flash of skill in midfield, then feeding Stein who just mis-controlled the ball as he was put through.

Johnson had to be quick to flick the ball away from England forward Gary Lineker, who has 32 goals already to his credit this season. At the other end, King took on the Everton defence and Stevens was hustled into considering a corner.

Preece's long, high kick was met by Harford and Foster, pushing well forward as he did on Wednesday night, had two half-chances on goal.

In the 7th minute, a controlled, curling pass from Hill caught the Blues' defence square and Harford looped a well taken shot onto the crossbar. However, a linesman flagged the big striker offside.

The Hatters applied consistent pressure upon the Everton goal and young Stein was pushed off the ball by Stevens, as his quick turn of speed caused problems. But in the 11th minute, it was Lineker's pace that had Luton worried and Foster had no option but to concede a corner.

That came to nothing, but the visitors had weathered the early storm and a fine long ball from defence picked out Sharp,



Mick Harford — gave Luton an early lead.

whose headed lay-off set up Bracewell. His final shot flashed just wide of Sealey's near post.

Play entered something of a lull, but the Hatters fans were on their feet in the 22nd minute. Nicholas's throw and Foster's flick caused panic in the Everton penalty area. Hill got a touch and Harford tucked the ball into the net.

Everton bounced back, but the goal had done wonders for Luton's confidence and the supports got right behind their team. The pace was frenzied and the Hatters sensed that, this time, it just might their day.

Lineker intercepted and managed to squeeze the ball past the goalkeeper. Luckily for the Hatters, Donaghy was on hand to clear. The ex-Leicester striker, a minute later, was given oceans of space for a header which flew inches wide.

The champions started the second half in determined mood and were looking to take command, but Reid was having more of an influence on the match and Richardson was allowed time on the ball before giving a sizzling drive over the crossbar.

A gigantic goal kick from Sealey bounced just once and fell to Stein, with Harper required to put in a timely tackle and give away a corner.

Harford again dominated Preece's kick, but no-one was able to apply a finishing touch.

Everton had now put the shackles on the Hatters and there were fears that Luton would be ground into submission as they were a year ago.

But in the 64th minute, the cloud lifted from over Luton and they had superb control from Stein to thank.

A through ball from Nicholas caught Everton's defence hopelessly square and Stein rounded Southall before poking the ball into the net at the second attempt.

Luton's joy however was short lived. Everton came back immediately when Sharp headed home a left wing cross two minutes later, although it appeared that Donaghy may have provided a decisive deflection.

A whipped cross from Steven just eluded Sharp as it sped across goal and then, in the 33rd minute, the Hatters were remarkably let off the hook.

Foster inexplicably allowed a low ball to slide through to Sealey, but

Substitute, Adrian Heath, who had replaced left-back Pointon, brought the scores level for Everton in the 78th minute. Foster failed to clear Lineker's pass and Heath nipped in to beat Sealey with a low shot.

Attendance: 15,529.

Luton Town: Sealey, Johnson, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford, King, Preece. Sub: North.

Everton: Southall, Stevens, Pointon, Harper, Van de Hauwe, Reid, Steven, Linneker, Sharp, Bracewell, Richardson. Sub: Heath.

Referee: Keith Hackett, Sheffield.