

Luton win a tribute to Sealey

By Clive White

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Luton Town had Les Sealey, their experienced goalkeeper, and the refusal of Trelford Mills the referee, to award an obvious penalty, to thank for holding on to a fifth minute lead given them by Brian Stein in this Littlewoods Cup fourth round tie at Portman Road last night. The victory puts Luton into the quarter-final round of the League Cup competition for the second time in their history.

Luton, forced by their principles to play the third round tie against Coventry City away from home, maintained that positive approach, helped no doubt by an unexpected win at Hillsborough on Saturday.

It did not take them too long to feel at home again. That inbred understanding between the Stein brothers revealed itself once more when young Mark, temporarily filling his brother's slot just behind the front two, put Brian through the defence and his elder brother scored with admirable composure, to bring the Steins' tally to five goals in just over three hours of football.

With five players — Hill, Weir, Preece, Harford and Grimes ruled out by injury — and Allinson cup-tied, Luton looked to be a suitable case for treatment by a young second division side growing in confidence from eight consecutive home victories.

But Luton, clearly buoyant themselves by their own good recent form, managed, without too much difficulty and with some fine work by Donaghy, to keep an over-elaborate Ipswich attack at arm's length throughout a lively first half.

For all their pressure Ipswich had only a D'Avray header, which sailed over Sealey's cross-bar to show for it until the 26th minute. Then Harvey, playing his first game of the season in place of Grimes, blatantly obstructed Lowe some two or three yards inside the penalty area. But to the crowd's astonishment the referee awarded a free kick close enough to the line to be inside the box and Harbey's kick was disappointingly charged down by the Luton defence.

The excellent reflexes of the Luton goalkeeper, who came into the game with a shoulder injury, were exercised soon after the interval when a header by D'Avray was smack on target, until Sealey changed its course.

Then, from a corner by Rimmer, the ball broke fortuitously off D'Avray, forcing Sealey to another smart save. In between Brian Stein gave Luton a little relief to the build-up of pressure. But Ipswich were soon back on the attack just for a change, only for Donaghy to become Luton's saviour when he intercepted Lowe right in front of the posts.

IPSWICH TOWN: J Halworth; F Yallop, G Harbey, N Rimmer, J Dozzell, I Cranson, D Lowe, M Brennan, M D'Avray, R Zondervan, M Stockwell.

LUTON TOWN: L Sealey; T Breacker, R Harvey, D McDonough, S Foster, M Donaghy, D Wilson, B Stein, E Nwajiobi, R Johnson, M Stein.

Referee: T Mills.