

Sad Everton so close to humiliation

By a Special Correspondent

Everton 0 Luton 2

EVERTON'S injured captain Ratcliffe enthused in the match programme that his Welsh international colleague Southall was the best goalkeeper in the world.

At the end of probably the bleakest afternoon Goodison Park has suffered since the fortunes of the club took an upswing four years ago, that assessment remained valid.

If not for Southall, the embarrassment of being comprehensively beaten by such moderately accomplished opponents, claiming their first away League win in 10 months, would have turned to humiliation.

He parried a Black drive after 74 minutes, only to be beaten by Oldfield who followed up from the edge of the area. Ten minutes later, Black scored after a superb Oldfield pass.

Earlier Southall produced two brilliant saves to keep out a Wilson header and a Johnson drive.

Without Ratcliffe's pace and know-how, Everton's defence looked makeshift. That was perhaps not surprising when the back four on Saturday included only one natural defender—Watson.

What must cause more concern, however, is that Cottee, Britain's first £2 million striker, and Sharp, who would fetch even more if put on the market tomorrow, failed so crucially to convert chances. Two of those opportunities had come and gone by the 13th minute.

Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, attempted to explain his team's display by claiming they seemed too tense. "We played a bit frightened. Frightened when we had chances, frightened when we had opponents against us," he said.

Everton: Southall; McDonald (Clarke 81), Wilson, Snodin, Watson, Reid, Heath, McCall, Sharp, Cottee, Sheedy.

Luton: Sealey, Johnson, Dreyer, Williams, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Oldfield (Allinson 90), Harford, Hill (Breaker 83), Black.

THE MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Sealey; R. Johnson, Foster, Donaghy, Dreyer; Wilson, Williams, Black; Hill (Breaker, 83 mins); Oldfield (Allinson, 89 mins), Harford.

EVERTON: Southall; McDonald (Clarke, 83 mins), Snodin, Watson, Wilson; Reid, Heath, McCall, Sheedy; Sharp, Cottee. Other sub: Jones, not used.

THE GOALS: David Oldfield, 74 minutes; Kingsley Black, 83 minutes.

OTHER STRIKES: Town six saved and five wide; Everton five saved and eight wide. Corners: 7-5 to Everton.

ATTENDANCE: 26,017, lower by 6,000 on the corresponding league game last season.

REFEREE: Michael Peck, Kendal. Kept firm control, and took pressure from home fans well.

ENTERTAINMENT: A match to remember for the Town's best all-round team display since Wembley last April.

Luton salute likely lads

TWO YOUNGSTERS still feeling their way in the cut-throat world of First Division football earned Luton a superb victory at Goodison Park yesterday.

David Oldfield and Kingsley Black, both 20 and with only a handful of games under their belts, struck in the second-half to destroy Everton.

Their goals gave Luton their first win of the season and their first League victory since December.

And delighted manager Ray Harford said afterwards: "We have now got that important first victory and we're away from the dreaded bottom three. I was very pleased for the youngsters who took their goals well."

Only a superb performance by Welsh international goalkeeper Neville Southall, who made world class stops from

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by PETER WELBOURN

Danny Willson, Mick Harford, Oldfield and Rob Johnson, kept out Luton before the break.

But there was little he could do to prevent Luton taking a 75th minute lead.

Southall could only beat away a hard rising drive from Black and Oldfield pounced to tuck the ball smartly into the bottom corner.

As Everton pressed for the equaliser Black galloped down the left, drew Southall and slotted in the second from an acute angle with just seven minutes to go.

The nearest Everton came to a goal was when Tony Cottee hit the post with a header and Luton defenders thankfully scrambled the ball away.

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Chris Dudley

DAVID OLDFIELD, from Down Under, lifted Luton to their first win of the season at Goodison Park as they punished big spenders Everton for their frivolity.

While the Merseysiders and £2m acquisition, Tony Cottee, squandered chances galore, Luton, with no pretensions to being among the 'super-leaguers', took theirs to deserve their first away victory in the First Division since last December at Watford.

A relieved manager, Ray Harford, said: "It was important to get that first win under our belts and to get out of the dreaded bottom three. We worked hard and created our own luck."

The fortune he was referring to were the chances which Everton allowed to go begging.

Not that Everton had things all their own way for Luton gave as good as they got and it needed Neville Southall to produce the sort of form that has made him an outstanding international goalkeeper.

He could even feel unlucky when Luton eventually beat him after 74 minutes. Kingsley Black pounced on a loose ball to evade both Dave Watson and Neil McDonald to strike a shot which Southall did well to parry. Unfortunately for the Welsh international it rebounded to Oldfield on the edge of the penalty area who drove the ball home.

It was yet another celebration at Goodison for the 20-year-old from Perth, Australia, who scored two goals on his Luton debut at this ground in the Simod Cup last season.

Everton gambled everything on attack only to be caught out again when Oldfield supplied the pass seven minutes from the end for Black to round Southall and score from a narrow angle.

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Luton: Sealey; Johnson, Dreyer, Williams, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson D. Oldfield (Allinson 89), Harford, Hill (Breaker 86), Black.

Referee: Michael Peck (Kendal).