



Luton's Sean Farrell showing signs of bodily anguish at Kenilworth Road as Tony Gale swoops to clear a moment of danger in West Ham's defence

West Ham stay solid on plastic

WEST HAM overcame their fear of synthetic pitches to earn a replay at Upton Park.

The Second Division leaders' record on plastic has not been too impressive over the past couple of seasons. As well as losing 6-0 at Oldham in last season's Littlewoods Cup semi-final, they were thrashed 5-1 by Luton at Kenilworth Road in the Zenith Data Systems Cup last month.

So apprehensive was West Ham manager Billy Bonds that he demoted strikers McAvennie and Quinn to the substitutes bench, leaving Morley up front with five in midfield.

Luton found the packed midfield hard going. Indeed, Wil-

liams was frustrated enough to foul Bishop, who retaliated. Both players were booked.

Although Luton spent the majority of the game in West Ham's half, they seldom worried Czech goalkeeper Mikloskjo.

West Ham's defence held up well with Elstrup, Luton's most dangerous attacker, well covered by Breacker, the full-back bought from Luton for £600,000 earlier this season.

The visitors had to wait until the 33rd minute for their first corner and the 43rd for their first shot. But when it arrived, it came to good effect.

Keen and Allen worked well on the left to set up Slater. He

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Charles Whebell

beat his marker before firing in a shot which Chamberlain did well to palm away. The ball fell to Parris, who hammered home his fifth goal of the season and his third in three games.

Luton replaced the ineffective Farrell with Dowie 11 minutes into the second half and the big striker immediately made an impression with his hard running and aerial power.

Luton's continuous pressure paid off in the 71st minute

when Black struck the equaliser. Keen fouled Preece on the edge of the West Ham penalty area and Williams's quick free-kick evaded the West Ham defence and found Black on the far post. He shot home his sixth goal of the season.

West Ham's best spell came in the last five minutes. Good work by Parris resulted in Morley setting up Allen, but his shot flew straight at Chamberlain. Then McAvennie, who had come on for Keen, saw his 89th minute header headed off the line by Luton substitute Rees.

Mr Bonds agreed that he had been worried about how his team would perform after

their 5-1 defeat here but added that, until the thrashing at Oldham, their record on plastic had been reasonably good.

He said: "We learnt a lot from our last game here and I'm very pleased with the effort everyone put in."

Luton manager Jim Ryan said the 5-1 victory had not bred over-confidence. He said: "We knew it would be a different sort of game but I was pleased that the players never gave up."

Luton Town: Chamberlain; James, Harvey, Williams, McDonough, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece (86), Farrell (Dowie 56), Pembroke, Black.

West Ham: Mikloskjo; Breacker, Parris, Gale, Bishop, Hughton, Keen (McAvennie 78), Slater, Allen, Potts, Morley.

Referee: R Groves (Weston-super-Mare).