

Derby1 Luton Town1 (Half-time.....0-1)

Brian Swain reports

Action pictures: Josh Levy



beaten lacklustre and ● SO CLOSE: Phil Gray was out of luck as he searched for his 20th league goal of the unimaginative Derby season at the Baseball Ground. One chance escaped when the ball carried a yard too far County, and avoid the in front of him as, above, goalkeeper Martin Taylor advanced to save. Below: Gray is over fear that a series of freak and past the keeper, but the ball has already gone the other way. results could yet snatch away what manager



CAUGHT SHORT AND THE PARTY Rinds States IS PUT ON HOLD

Match details Derby Co 1 Luton Town 1

LUTON TOWN: Chamberlain; James, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson; Telfer Kamara, Preece, Hughes; Dixon, Gray. Subs not used: Oakes, Williams. DERBY COUNTY: Taylor; Patterson, Short, Forsyth, Nicholson; St. ridge, Kuhl (Coleman, 29 mins, himself subbed by Stallard, 82 mins) Pembridge, Simpson: Kitson, Gabbiadini,

THE GOALS 0-1 35 mins: David Preece, careful low drive in off the fa post after beating the offside trap by timing his run from deep to meet a through pass by Trevor Peake; 1-1, ten seconds before 90 minutes wa up, but with five minutes of stoppage time still to come: Craig Short, far post header, after Mark Pembridge drifted clear of Preece and delivered a perfect curling cross

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town six saved and three wide; Derby four say ed and six wide. Corners: 5-5.

REFEREE: lan Cruickshanks, Hartlepool. Smallest man on the field. and not up to the job. Very weak with control of pros who seemed to know they could get away more than usual. BOOKED: Craig Short for a foul on Phil Gray; Ceri Hughes for a foul

ATTENDANCE: 13,741, one of Derby's best gates of the season, with ,027 from Luton packing out the visitors' corner and giving their team great backing, despite being spat on by home fans in the seats above. ENTERTAINMENT: Not much of a football match, with Derby playing a lot of goalkeeper's kicks and rush, and offside traps at each end not helping the flow of the game.

Ten seconds

Baseball Ground,

may well be enough

Town's future in

for a another

David Pleat and his

They should put the

cing on the cake at

Kenilworth Road on

Saturday, to give home

ans the party feeling

killed off so painfull

nard to achieve.

My stopwatch showed n seconds of normal ne to be played when ogether at a cost of ed a point through a eader by Craig Short. In fact there were five nore minutes to be layed, and poor though he ref was, he was right n his timekeeping

Ian Cruickshanks, a inwittingly encouraged.

with crude challenges on Trevor Peake when he found the Luton skipper beaten in any other way. As a spectacle, much

of the game was ruined "I hoped to see more by two offside traps football from Derby," I which were a lot smarter than the forwards trying after the game

play football, but Derby, with an awful home record this season, tried to placate their critical fans by living up to their

Their idea of building

a back pass to Derby's forwardgoalkeeper Martin rushing defence. Taylor for him to launch direction of the other

said to Mark Pembridge to 15. "So did I..." came the been showing son honest answer

brute strength, the ofthreat. Town deserved to pick up their fifth away win of chance in the

Preece, 30 next month, for hands when the

He netted his seco 70-yard 'passes' in the goal in consecu games to give the Tow

in ten years with the cl In terms of skill, if not Gabbiadini looking to

He fluffed a go But it needed David penalised Ceri Hught

omen at a time, display. They lost

Pin Green...... 1
Dunstable Colts 1
Dunstable Jnr.... 1 Houghton Youth 16 4 2 10 33 55 10 Celtic Youth 16 4 2 10 33 55 10 Lewsey Centre B 16 0 0 16 17 89 0

UNDER-11 DIVISION ONE

UNDER-11 DIVISION

AFC Houghton
Westoning BC
Sundon Pk
Flamstead
Ampthill B
Barnfield B
Pioneers
Barton Stars



NEFENDER ON THE ATTACK: John Dreyer gets upfield to fire in a tremendous tyolley from which Martin Taylor made an excellent save.

rin Kuhl curled in have scored in the 29th pe kick to the far minute. He started a Gabbiadini move in midfield, and nmarked, but kept running as it was carried on smoothly by om their left- Kerry Dixon. The

good free kick he Town's wall, the far post. lec Chamberlain

advance behind ces, too much of was squeezed

ght to defeat such side's advancing back cs, and the Town

iberlain made an upfield. is late run from out him clear idered on the the inside of a post.

ood passing on sure that it was a reason

that, they said, robbed capable of. them of the one man in midfield capable of midfield creator until tremendous tackle on

Kamara, Hughes and Perhaps it was a blow Preece tired. striker laid back a pass to Derby's players as to the edge of the box, well, because until their and Preece shot wide of late and undeserved equaliser they looked like a team of misfits, Gray the chance for his But he made no mistake in the 35th with hardly a footballing

idea between them. minute when Peake, as But once more, hard he and John Dreyer though Dixon and Phil were to do many more Gray worked, the Town times, collected a hopeattack rarely looked like ful long pass, sized up making the most of the the situation in a trice overall superiority of the and clipped a precise chip over the home For most of the second

half the Town sat back needed eluded them. and looked comfortable, Preece had held back, is Kamara going on and luckless sub Simon treating Derby to the al good runs from Coleman, later to be counter-attacking but unable to subbed himself, was a system that had been so devastating to the Town vard late with his charge in the two previous meetings with Arthur Preece simply ran past

him, brought the ball

placed his shot carefully

into the far corner, off

Derby's substitution

had been made six

minutes before that, and

Cox's men. Fullbacks Julian James and Marvin Johnson accepted the need to keep it tight at the back and not worry with Paul Kitson too much about getting

But Paul Telfer and more inventive in turn-Hughes were hard- ing defence into quick working links between attack, and even Dreyer I felt that they, and ming from the skipper Martin Kuhl Kamara, were a notch

Taylor made the save. Preece was the best

holding the ball and Pembridge began to in- Kitson when Derby spraying out good crease his influence in looked like equalising the closing stages as with ten minutes to go, but the victory the Town Hughes set up Telfer deserved was snatched for a run down the away as the watch ticked middle, and he released

the pass perfectly to give

Eluded

Telfer from an opening

made by Dixon, but the

second goal the Town

A ref who failed to use

the law of common

sense was no great help.

were allowed to go or

shooting over the bar.

At one point James and

Preece was too slow 21st goal of the season, when Pembridge was but Taylor saved at his played into the inside-

He collected the pass without faltering, with Preece standing off for a The keeper also dealt vital second to give him with a cross-shot by time to hit a viciously

3 Portsmouth (h) 1-4 (Dreyer) ...

25 Peterborough (a) 3-2 (Gray 2, Telfer) .

31 Southend (h) 2-2 (James, Gray) ...

3 Cambridge (a) 3-3 (Oakes, Gray 2)

28 West Ham (a) 2-2 (Hughes, Dreyer)...

6 Leicester (h) 2-0 (Johnson, Gray).

27 Barnsley (h) 2-2 (Dixon, Gray pen)

6 Portsmouth (a) 1-2 (Gray).

13 Tranmere Rov (a) 2-0 (Gray, Johnson)

9 Oxford (h) 3-1 (Prece, Gray, Oakes) .

10 Barnsley (a) 0-3 ..

17 Derby (h) 1-3 (Johnson)

7 Grimsby (h) 1-4 (Gray) ..

1 Millwall (h) 1-1 (Gray) .

29 Watford (h) 2-0 (Benjami

12 Wolves (a) 2-1 (Gray 2)

5 Bristol Rov (a) 0-2.

19 Sunderland (h) 0-0 ..

16 Notts Co (h) 0-0...

7 Newcastle (h) 0-0

30 Bristol City (a) 0-0 .

9 Brentford (h) 0-0 ..

20 Charlton (h) 1-0 (Gray).

13 Grimsby (a) 1-3 (Gray) .

instead of a draw.

Town, and Preece might have scored in the 29th with a muscle strain, and that, they said, robbed that, they said, robbed capable of.

Telfer's pass. Again tar post, and defender capable of.

Taylor made the save Short headed in from Johnson produced a close range.

* There was still time for the Town to redress the balance,, but after a rare mistake by Taylor. fluffing a clearance, Dixthe hobble of the ball snatching the chance

very late Town equaliser left us coming home like we had seen a win,

This time the gutted feeling for a few hours was as though we had curling cross towards the seen the Town lose.

upsets boss and players

an at the Baseball Ground by the late goal that cost his team two points.

Derby's boring long ball game intruding on his

He beamed when he talked about David Preece's oal, but he was annoyed about the equaliser, with forced him to go inside. Instead the former Town evastating cross he was known to be capable of.

And Kerry Dixon took the rap for poor marking which allowed Craig Short to head the goal on the far

But against that, the Town manager admitted that the ball played in by Pembridge was top quality, term that could not be used about Derby's genera

"They pushed out quickly and the goalkeeper hoofed the ball over our back four," said Mr Pleat. "It was bash it, chase and scrap.

"Our lads had to battle, and until the goal we defended very well. Some of our attacking was very good, and Taylor made two tremendous saves against Gray and Dreyer.'

But the talk came back to the subject of Mr Cruickshanks, and the Town boss voiced the disquiet felt by his players at the ref's performance.

Craig Short and Ceri Hughes were booked for fouls, but Trevor Peake was fouled three times by Marco Gabbiadini, and nothing was done about it. except a lecture for the Town skipper who asked for a bit of protection after the third.

Preece 'had his legs cut in half' and no foul was given, and when he and Julian James were both down injured Derby were allowed to continue an attacking spell until it ended with a shot into the crowd.

"Common sense should have prevailed and the ref should have stopped the game," said Mr Pleat. And he made it clear he has no complaints with his team's efforts.

"The game we have seen is not for me," he said. "When the other side plays it frenetic, you need eight good men who can pass the ball.

"We didn't pass it enough, but it was very difficult Our team deserves credit for what it has achieved in two very difficult away games. We are disappointed that we did not hang on to win, but draws a

Sunderland and now at Derby are not bad results

The season so far

Preece were both flat CHART SHOWS Town score first, goalscorers, gates and league position. out injured, and Derby

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIV I 3 Watford (a) 0-0 . . 7.948 18 Fortunately for Mr Cruickshanks it ended 1992 .10,934 21 10 Swindon (a) 0-1. 13 West Ham (h) 2-0 (Gray pen, Williams) 10.959 16 17 Sunderland (a) 2-2 (Preece, Telfer)16,493 16 15 Leicester (a) 1-2 (Campbell)... 24 Derby (a) 1-1 (Preece)..... The Town were much 22 Bristol City (h) 0-3 6,302 21 29 Charlton (a) 0-0... Preece 41, Peake 38, Johnson 36(2), Dreyer 36, Chamberlain 30, Rees 29(3), Telfer 28(2), Hughes 25(3), Oakes 24(18), The more for the side's poor front and rear, although popped up in the Derby front and rear, although popped up in the Derby front and rear, although popped up in the Derby front and rear, although popped up in the Derby front and rear, although popped up in the Derby front and rear, although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear, although popped up in the Derby front and rear, although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear, although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear, although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear, although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear, although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although popped up in the Derby statement of the side is poor front and rear although the side is poor front although the side is poor front and rear although the side is poor front although the side is po 2 Newcastle (a) 0-2. Kamara 19, Linton 17(3), Salton 15, Dixon 14(1), Petterson 14, 7,310 19 Williams 7(13), Benjamin 5(5), Campbell 2(7), Harvey and Greene 1. BEFORE TRANSFERS: Claridge 15(1); Matthew (on . 5,992 21 26 Notts Co (a) 0-0.

.18,786 20

10.237 24

. 8,877 24

. 7,248 21

. 8.443 19

. 7,595 19

. 6.687 17

.. 5,193 18

. 7.717 17

. 8.286 21

oan) 3(2). Number of players used: 23 (32 last season). GOALS: Gray 19(2 pens), Oakes 5, Johnson 3, James 2, Drever 2, Hughes 2, Dixon 2, Preece 3, Telfer 2, Claridge 2(1 pen). One . 5,261 23 each by Campbell, Linton, Benjamin and Williams. One OG: Lee Maddison, of Bristol Rovers

ASSISTS: Preece 8. Gray 5. Johnson 4. Hughes and Kamara 3. Two each by Rees, Dreyer, Oakes, Williams, Dixon and Claridge. One each by James, Linton, Telfer, Peake and Salton.

REMAINING fixtures: Saturday Peterborough (h), Saturday week Southend (a).

THE FA CUP

Round 3: Jan 19 Bristol City (h) 2-0 (Gray, Hughes)..... 6,094 .13,932 19 Round 4: Jan 23 Derby County (h) 1-5 (Telfer)

> APPEARANCES: Two each by Chamberlain, James, Dreyer, Peake, Johnson, Telfer, Rees, Preece, Hughes, Gray and Benjamin. Two each as subs by Oakes and Harvey.

THE COCA-COLA CUP

Round 2 (1): Sep 23 Plymouth (h) 2-2 (Claridge 2)..... 3,702 Round 2 (2): Oct 6 Plymouth (a) 2-3 (Claridge, Preece) 8,946

APPEARANCES: Two each by Petterson, Linton, Salton Peake, Johnson, James, Kamara, Preece, Gray and Claridge Oakes 1(1), Rees 1(1). One each as sub by Campbell and Dreyer. GOALS: Claridge 3, Preece 1.

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

Sep 15 Watford (a) 0-0 5,19	17
29 Bristol City (h) 1-1 (Claridge)	8
APPEARANCES: Two each by Petterson, Linton, Salton, Ree	S.
James, Kamara, Claridge and Gray. Preece 1(1), Campbell 1(1	n.
Peake 1, Johnson 1, Dreyer 1, Matthew 1, Oakes (2).	"

Local Soccer: Chiltern Youth League tables

UNDER-1	BD	IV	IS	101	A OI	NE	-
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leighton Town	12	8	2	2	43	18	18
Hitchin Town	11	8	1	2	53	19	17
Royston Town	10	6	2	2	36	14	14
Luton Boys Club	11	4	3	4	37	27	11
	11	2	4	5	27	31	8
Stevenage	11	2	2	7	14	40	6
Lea Sports	12	1	2	9	16	77	4
Coldharbour							
						wo	
UNDER-1	8 C			101			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	F
Woodstock	14	12	1	1	50	21	25
Ramridge	15	11	0	4	47	25	22
Dunstable	13	6	1	6	40	28	13
Gyosei	13	4	3	6	28	29	11
Fairlands Youth	15	5	0	10	28	45	10
HR Chequers	14	1	1	12	18	63	1
UNDER-1	7 [)IV	IS	10		NE	
	P	W	D	L	r	A	F
Chaucanna	13	12	0	1	80	14	
Stevenage	44	10	n	1	67	23	21

UNDER-17 DIVISION TWO

Leighton Town... 8 2 3 3 1

UNDER-16 DIVISION TWO

Aylesbury Utd... Dunstable Jnr... Lewsey Centre. Ampthill Boys...

UNDER-16 DIVISION THREE

UNDER-15 DIVISION ONE

Aylesbury Utd.... 15 10 2 3 43 18 22

UNDER-14 DIVISION TWO

UNDER-13 DIVISION ONE

PWDLFAP Houghton Yth A 22 7 2 13 59 80 165 Dunstable Colts 25 5 5 15 45 89 165 Lea Sports... 20 5 2 13 37 84 12 Ramridge... 23 2 7 14 41 90 11 Sundon Pk... 25 3 3 19 45 129 9 Markyate Youth 20 1 3 16

Markyate Youth 20 1 3 16 35 137 5 UNDER-13 DIVISION TWO

Luton Boys Club 25 13 5 7 76 58 1cknield Ath 21 11 3 7 98 62 H Hatters 24 10 4 10 90 82 Filtwick Eagles 24 11 1 12 70 68 WL Saints 24 9 2 13 90 90

St. Mary's ... 21 4 3 14 25 78 11 ... 20 4 2 14 38 79 10 ... 18 2 1 15 25 90 5 Houghton Youth 22 1 3 18 19 92 5 **UNDER-12 DIVISION TWO**

UNDER-TEN DIVISION ONE 3 2 3 40 14 18 3 1 6 32 28 17 3 0 5 31 16 16 7 2 5 26 25 16 5 4 7 27 48 14 4 4 7 27 32 12 2 3 10 19 29 7

ahead with his second goal in consecutive games, his fourth of the