

SHORT'S GOAL MAKES NO ODDS

92/93

MARK PEMBRIDGE lined up for Derby County after FIFA's decision that the Welsh FA had asked for their international players too late for them to be withdrawn from this week's First Division games.

He was in an unchanged Derby side, after the 0-0 draw against Bristol City. Ceri Hughes returned for Luton after suspension and Northern Ireland international Phil Gray was in despite worries about a groin strain.

Luton kicked off playing towards the Osmaston end but there were two early off-sides to give Derby possession.

When Patterson drove the second free kick forward, Hughes handled just outside the area and Kuhl's free kick gave Gabbiadini a clear header. He had all the goal to aim at but put the ball wide.

Hughes headed wide at the other end but Derby's best attack so far stemmed from Pembridge's excellent pass to Simpson.

The centre was too high but Gabbiadini was able to retrieve it, with the ball again coming in slightly too high for Kitson to control his header.

Forsyth headed out a long throw by Telfer and Chamberlain had to leave his area as Sturridge tried to play Kitson through.

Sturridge was narrowly off-side when Gabbiadini nudged the ball through, which was probably as well as the referee was right in his way.

A long clearance by Taylor enabled Kitson to shake off Dreyer but the centre was cleared and Patterson overhit the ball when he followed up.

A free kick by Kuhl was headed out but when Simpson returned the ball, Kitson had room for his header but was unable to put enough force in it to trouble Chamberlain.

Gabbiadini forced Chamberlain to a diving save after good control by Sturridge. Chamberlain saved at the foot of a post when Simpson curved in a free kick, awarded for handling against Peake, unseen by the referee but spotted by a linesman.

Sturridge came back to conceded a corner when Hughes ran at Patterson but the Rams cleared easily enough.

Short trekked back effectively to rob Dixon and, from a big clearance by Taylor, Chamberlain back pedalled, enabling Kitson to have a shot blocked and Gabbiadini to fire wide from the rebound.

Gabbiadini was off-side following good work by Sturridge and Pembridge. Derby had another good chance after 25 minutes when Gabbiadini robbed Kamara and played Pembridge in. Chamberlain blocked Pembridge's shot and it was whipped behind for a corner by Dreyer.

Chamberlain came out to beat Kitson to a long centre from Pembridge and threw out to Hughes, who ran on to force a corner off Patterson.

Preece shot wide after Dixon turned on a low centre and the Rams were forced into a change after 29 minutes when Coleman took over from Kuhl.

Coleman went to right back with Patterson in midfield. Short was booked after 31 minutes for fouling Gray just inside the Luton half.

Pembridge found Kitson in plenty of space but, when the ball was rolled back in, the defence closed and Pembridge's shot was blocked.



● Paul Kitson gets the better of the struggling Luton defence

DERBY COUNTY	1
LUTON TOWN	1

DERBY COUNTY: M. Taylor; Patterson, Nicholson, Forsyth, Short, Pembridge, Sturridge, Kuhl, Kitson, Gabbiadini, Simpson. Subs: Stallard, Coleman.
LUTON TOWN: Chamberlain; Dreyer, James, Johnson, Hughes, Peake, Telfer, Kamara, Dixon, Gray, Preece. Subs: Oakes, Williams.
Referee: I.G. Cruikshanks (Hartlepool). Attendance: 19,741

GERALD MORTIMER AT THE BASEBALL GROUND

There were constant interruptions in the game because both teams were pushing up regularly for off-side.

A low free kick by Simpson was cleared before Luton went ahead after 36 minutes.

Coleman played **PREECE** on side as he chased a long pass from Peake and he was able to run on and score off a post.

There was a growl of disapproval from the crowd as Derby struggled to put anything together. The Rams had yet another chance after 42 minutes when Simpson hit in an excellent centre and Kitson brought the ball down on his chest but then sliced his shot wide.

Derby had wasted three or four good chances and the crowd was unimpressed.

Half-time:
DERBY COUNTY **0**
LUTON TOWN **1**

The Rams started the second half with Patterson at full back and Coleman in midfield but it may

have been a case of shutting the stable door too late.

Coleman put in a dreadfully late tackle on Johnson near the touchline and was fortunate to avoid a booking.

Gabbiadini forced Peake to put the ball behind but Short go under the corner and put his header over the bar.

Chamberlain took no risks when Peake sliced the ball, volleying it away rather than testing the referee's interpretation of a back pass.

Sturridge, at last given a look at the ball, was brought down by Hughes, booked for the foul after 53 minutes.

Gray was right through after a strong run by Telfer but Taylor came out at his feet to make a good save. He immediately had to save a cross shot from Telfer, Dixon having hooked the ball over the defence.

In the second half, the Rams had stopped creating anything and too

many balls were being banged forward. The supporters were becoming increasingly irritated by the performance and could not be blamed for doing so.

Preece, challenged by Kitson, was left lying near the centre circle as a Derby attack developed but was able to have treatment when Patterson shot into the crowd.

It was some time before Preece was able to get to his feet but he was certainly going to try to stay on. Poor Preece was caught again by Patterson on the touchline.

Derby's passing was breaking down far too often and it was small wonder that Luton were looking increasingly confident.

It needed two defenders to stop Sturridge on the Derby right but the Rams had put remarkably few moves together in the second half.

Sturridge was caught off-side when Simpson drove in a low centre and, following a Luton free kick, Taylor did well to beat out a shot from Dreyer.

Taylor saved when Gray turned round Coleman. Gabbiadini knocked a good ball in to Simpson but, as Kitson was poised to convert the low centre, Johnson came in with an excellent tackle.

After 82 minutes, Stallard came on in place of the first substitute, Coleman.

Derby equalised after 89 minutes when **SHORT** headed in a centre from Pembridge.