



IT'S MINE: Luton keeper Ian Feuer – Anglia Television's Man of the Match – safely gathers the ball from Ipswich winger Gus Uhlenbeek

Just no way to entertain armchair fans

IPSWICH fans must have feared a result something along these lines from a side coached by former team manager Mick McGiven, a past master at organising defence in depth.

Luton came to Portman Road at the foot of the table, just as they did in Bobby Robson's days when Ron Futch scored a last minute winner for the Hatters.

History repeated itself. Yesterday a depressing 90 minutes for neutral viewers on Anglia Television was settled by a goal from David Oldfield after 24 minutes.

The striker, who returned to Luton from Leicester in August for £150,000, gave Linighan the slip and fired a right foot shot that beat Forrest at his near post.

It was Oldfield's first goal of the season and, apparently, his best display.

Forrest would probably have saved but for the fact he looked a shade rusty after missing five matches with a neck injury.

Ipswich were down to 10 men when Luton scored. Sedgley was off the field for treatment to his ankle which had been damaged in a tackle for which Hughes was booked some eight minutes earlier.

There seemed to be considerable delay in assessing Sedgley's injury – but Tanner was introduced three minutes after the goal.

by TONY GARNETT

Once they had taken the lead, Luton batted down the hatches. When Ipswich had possession, which was most of the time, they were confronted by a line of seven defenders behind which Feuer looked impressive.

Ipswich created chances but never had the composure to accept them. Ian Marshall won his share of high balls but it was not Mathie's day in front of goal while Uhlenbeek's speed posed a threat but was wasted by inaccurate crosses.

Slater achieved little on the left so Ipswich attacks ended in frustration and the feeling quickly spread through to the stands.

It would have been a different story if Ian Marshall's header from Uhlenbeek's cross after eight minutes had not sailed past the far post. It was a good chance but Ipswich had started well and it was not until Sedgley's injury that doubts began to creep in.

Feuer made useful saves from Uhlenbeek, Tanner and Marshall before the interval and there was virtually non-stop Ipswich pressure throughout the second-half broken only by the occasional Luton raid.

When Williams, who kept battling away, had a good effort charged down. The ball ran to the unmarked Uhlenbeek but he lost control before he could shoot.

In the 68th minute Mathie put Uhlenbeek through but Feuer left his line

to block the shot. The ball spun into the air off the keeper's body but Feuer kept his balance and was able to collect it.

After 73 minutes Dwight Marshall rounded Linighan but fired across the face of goal.

One felt that if Ipswich could equalise then Luton might crumble, but Mathie put a volley wide after 76 minutes.

Luton brought on Gavin Johnson, freed by Ipswich at the end of last season, and he almost scored with his first touch in the 78th minute. Dwight Marshall crossed and if Johnson had dived to head the ball it was a certain goal. Instead he waited to volley and this gave Stockwell the opportunity to save the day.

In the last minute Alexander fouled Gregory just outside the penalty area. Marshall took the responsibility but fired well wide – typical of the Ipswich performance.

There was a sentimental cheer when Luton introduced Guentchev for the final three minutes. He became a North Stand favourite during his time at Portman Road but why this should have been the case has always been something of a mystery to me.

The match can have done little to hold the attention of viewers of Anglia Television. The Endsleigh League is surely capable of a far better brand of entertainment.

Anglia named Luton keeper Ian Feuer as their Man of the Match.

 IPSWICH TOWN			0		1	LUTON TOWN 
						David Oldfield (24 mins)
MANAGER: George Burley			Match Rating	SUNDAY OCTOBER 22	MANAGER: Terry Westley	Match Rating
1	Craig Forrest	10		PLAYED AT PORTMAN ROAD	1	Ian Feuer 16
2	Mick Stockwell	9		CONDITIONS IDEAL CONDITIONS	2	Trevor Peake 13
3	Mauricio Taricco	11		ATTENDANCE 9,123	3	Marvin Johnson 18
4	David Linighan	11		REFEREE: TREVOR WEST (Hull)	4	Steve Davis 12
5	Tony Mowbray	13			5	Ceri Hughes 12
6	Geraint Williams	14			6	Johnny Vilstrup 11
7	Gus Uhlenbeek	11			7	Graham Alexander 11
8	Steve Sedgley	14			8	Scott Oakes 13
9	Alex Mathie	12			9	David Oldfield 17
10	Ian Marshall	15			10	Dwight Marshall 14
11	Stuart Slater	9			11	Richard Harvey 11
Substitutes	N Gregory (for Mathie 81)					G Waddock (for Vilstrup 51 mins) 14
	A Petterson (unused keeper)					G Johnson (for Harvey 77 mins)
	A Tanner (for Sedgley 27)	12				B Guentchev (for Marshall 87)
					Rating out of 20	
11			GOAL ATTEMPTS	6		
5			CORNERS	5		
7			FOULS	15		

TONY GARNETT'S VERDICT

Obviously it was an emotional occasion for Luton manager Terry Westley and coach Mick McGiven because of their Portman Road connection – but for Ipswich fans and for neutrals it was a complete turn-off. Luton defended in depth once they had grabbed a goal and Ipswich lacked the guile to break them down. George Burley's players created chances but they seldom looked capable of beating confident goalkeeper Ian Feuer. There were boos from the stands at the end and a long talk-in for the home players who sadly missed the contribution of the injured Steve Sedgley.

MAN OF THE MATCH

IAN MARSHALL

