| Opposition: Luton Town | Date: 11 January 1987 | Times | | - | 11 Januar |
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THE TIMES

Grobbelaar freezes out lively Luton Luton Town 0 Liverpool 0

Liverpool's hopes of retaining the FA Cup were put on ice yesterday - and they were grateful for it. Their presence in today's fourth-round draw is due in no small measure to the heroics of Grobbelaar, their Jekyll and Hyde goalkeeper. Though, perhaps the real heroes were the 11,085 Luton supporters who braved the freezing elements to watch a game which went ahead on Luton's artificial pitch. The blizzard which arrived just as the game kicked off did nothing to make the surface more playable, and Luton utilised 'home-ground advantage' to the maximum. But Grobbelaar was equal to every snowball that Luton could throw his

From the early minutes when Nicholas and Hill drove shots into his stomach from 20 yards, it was apparent that Grobbelaar would have to be switched on to the right side of his split personality. Luton, chiefly through the sensibly-controlled play of Nicholas, dominated the first half in midfield without ever achieving any great penetration.

Hartford, a long-term absentee, immersed himself in the rigours of the tie like the combative Hartford of old. He deserved to have won the game for Luton with an awesome volley in the 22nd minute from 30 yards, but Grobbelaar got the faintest of touches onto the bar.

In the next minute, Grobbelaar was injured going down at the feet of Stein, but the referee waved play on, and as he struggled to retrieve his position, Stein headed the ball straight at him.

Liverpool were unable to change the direction of the play, having enough difficulty in stemming it. It seemed that they would need more of a competitive edge to survive in the second half.

On the hour Luton were on the attack again, Stein struck a shot on the turn, which forced Grobbelaar to scramble the ball away to safety, and minutes, later, Hill drove in a powerful cross from the wing which struck Grobbelaar on the chest, and bounced on to a post before Johnston thrashed the ball away almost on the goal line, with Newell and Harford bearing down like harriers for the kill. LUTON TOWN: L Sealey; R Johnson, A Grimes, P Nicholas, S Foster, M Donaghy, R Hill, B Stein, M Newell, M Harford, D Preece.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; G Gillespie, J Beglin, M Lawrenson, R Whelan, A Hansen, P Walsh, C Johnston, I Rush, J Molby, S McMahon. Referee: A Gunn.

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