

Hewkins holds Luton to four

Luton 4, Fulham 1: by JOHN THOMPSON

WITH 10 men for most of the game, Fulham would no doubt have been defeated by an even greater margin by this spirited Luton side had they not been saved from disaster so often by the courage of deputy goalkeeper Ken Hewkins, who had been taken ill before the kick-off.

Hewkins had had stomach trouble for several days and turned up as substitute for the injured Tony Macedo despite being ill again on the trip from London.

After Jimmy Hill had been carried off with torn knee ligaments in the 15th minute, Hewkins repeatedly blocked the barrage of shots that came to him from all directions by Luton's keen and lively attack.

Seldom can a player have been missed so much as Hill was by Fulham.

Afterwards he told me: "I will be unable to play again for at least six weeks, and it may be longer."

For Hewkins there was a well-earned tribute from manager Bedford Jezzard: "When Macedo was found to be unfit I had no choice but to play Ken, although he had been unwell for some days. He played very well indeed."

While Hill was present Fulham looked assured and clever. When he left their spirit seemed to go with him.

Luton played with zest and the success should give them the confidence they have needed for so long.

In the opening period Luton clearly suffered from over-anxiety,

and when Fulham went ahead Luton's air of apprehension seemed justified.

The goal was a good one. Hill began the movement with a typically tenacious dribble. Haynes back-heeled the ball to Leggat whose shot hit Baynham and Hill, following up well, tapped it into the net.

Most of Fulham's enterprise came from the splendid resistance of Bentley and Lowe and, when Fulham were in trouble, the pair were just as stout-hearted as they had been when things went well.

Langley also contributed much and headed what appeared a certain goal by Brown off the line.

But Hill's absence gradually crippled Fulham and Brown equalised when he slithered through the mud to finish off a shot by Bingham that would probably have gone in anyway.

Bingham hit the second after a kick by Pacey had struck the bar and after Hewkins had received treatment for a knock, he was beaten again—this time by Turner. Morton slammed in a grand shot from a difficult angle to increase Luton's lead.