

YOUNG BAFFLES LUTON

Luton 1 Derby Co. 2 : by GRAHAM BUXTON

LUTON should have won, for they had sufficient chances. But no one could really deny that Derby were worth the points.

For one thing Derby were better ordered in defence where former centre half Ray Young, wearing the right half jersey, performed as an extra pivot and played most of the game behind Les Moore.

This gave Derby a depth in defence which Luton could never fathom.

In midfield, Luton moved the ball smoothly forward. But, almost inevitably, the final pass was too haphazard and, as a result, Derby's defenders formed what seemed to be an impenetrable barrier.

Even so, Derby's plan was not completely foolproof for former Chester inside right Ron Davies, making an impressive home debut, was unlucky twice in the first half and other chances slipped away.

Luton's main weakness was on the wings, particularly on the right where Harry Walden's finishing was well below Second Division standards.

Derby wingers Don Roby and John McCann, on the other hand, made it a nightmare match for Luton full-backs Brendan McNally and John Bramwell.

Of the two, Roby was the more dangerous and it was from his

work that Derby took a shock lead after 71 minutes.

Roby left Bramwell sprawling and from his low centre Bill Curry, who has been out of form recently, swung away first time and beat Ron Baynham's dive.

The goal seemed to settle it because Luton lost heart completely and their fate seemed sealed when Jim Hutchinson put in a second goal 10 minutes later.

But, surprisingly, Luton roused themselves — and with seven minutes left Gordon Turner received a lucky rebound and smacked the ball in off the post.

Turner's success gave Luton new hope, but they lacked the forward power to equalise despite a desperate rally in the closing stages.

Luton's problem is to tighten up their defence and to find punch in attack.

Derby, with Jack Parry back prompting in the forward line could be due for an improvement. They certainly have a substantial defence on which to build.