

LUTON'S CRASH MAKES IT TOUGH FOR CHELSEA

Sunderland strike double blow

By DAVID MILLER

Luton 0 Sunderland 3

CHELSEA were at Kenilworth Road to see if Luton could strike a double blow by beating Sunderland. Far from it. The result virtually assures that Sunderland go up and Luton down.

Luton's last match is at Stoke on Saturday, which promises no reprieve, since Walsall are at home to Norwich to-night and have another game in hand.

As for Tambling and Co., all they have to do now is win at Roker Park on Saturday and Portsmouth next Tuesday. They can pip Sunderland on goal average. Who knows, perhaps Chelsea's youth and inexperience can finally be their allies, for older men would know too well the length of the odds against them.

Sharkey, 19, who took over when Clough broke his leg, put Sunderland firmly on the First Division road in the 20th minute with a header which I doubt was ever bettered by Lawton or Dean.

QUICK AS LIGHT

Accurate header

McNally, Luton's left-back, deceived by the spin on a pass, conceded a corner. Davison sent the kick across hard and low and little Sharkey, standing well out towards the flag, flicked the ball as quick as a shaft of light just inside the angle of post and bar.

A crowd of 16,410, Luton's biggest of the season by 5,000, could do little to elevate a team that lacked sharpness in attack and was outpaced in defence by the fleet-footed Herd, Sharkey and Mulhall.

Certainly Luton had their misfortunes. In the 14th minute Turner crashed the ball inches past a post and five minutes after Sharkey's header, McGuffie shaved the bar with Montgomery beaten.

HAIRLINE DECISION

Always the masters

Then, in the 36th minute, Davies had a goal disallowed for off-side with what must have been a hairline decision. But Sunderland's forwards were always the masters and a minute after the interval Mulhall scored with a fine cross shot with Baynham unsighted after Daniel had cleared straight to the winger.

McKechnie might have had a penalty just after this when floored by Nelson, but I doubt if it would have helped. Sharkey got a third near the end while Kelly was busy doing up a bootlace.

Luton. — Baynham; Daniel, McNally; Morton, Kelly, Bramwell; Clapton, Turner, Davies, McGuffie, McKechnie.

Sunderland. — Montgomery; Nelson, Ashurst; Anderson, Hurley, McNab; Davison, Herd, Sharkey, Crossan, Mulhall.