

Pep talk fails at Luton

Luton 0 Mansfield 2

SPARKS flew in the Luton dressing-room at half-time as manager Bill Harvey tried to infuse some fight into his slacking team, writes **GRAHAM BUXTON**.

But his strictures failed because they seemed to give up the ghost after having held the upper hand for the first half an hour.

Even when Luton were on top the Mansfield defence, generalised by highly competent centre-half John Gill, set up an iron curtain which shot-shy Luton could not penetrate.

With veteran marksman Gordon Turner absent Luton had not a forward who appeared to pack a shot, while, on the other hand, Mansfield, whose centre-forward Ken Wagstaff, valued at £40,000, was watched by a Middlesbrough director, had a much better notion of where the goal lay.

Wagstaff moved off the ball intelligently leaving the gap for the tall Roy Chapman. It was a move between the two that led to the first Mansfield goal a minute before half-time.

Chapman floated in an awkward centre that Baynham could only push out and so bad was the Luton marking that Wagstaff had almost to push colleague Bert Scanlon out of the way to put the ball into net.

That seemed to sink Luton without trace, because Mansfield, although they made some sort of show of defiance at the start of the second half, it did not amount to much in terms of finishing.

When Brian Hall smacked in a low Scanlon centre after 59 minutes, Luton hopes disappeared, and Mansfield spent the rest of the game almost toying with their opponents.

As it was, Scanlon twice clipped the top of the bar, and Wagstaff also missed by inches.