

Tinsley foils Vale youngsters



Luton goalkeeper, Tinsley, beats Port Vale youngsters Mitchell and Porter to a Smith centre during the League Cup match last night.

Consolation for unlucky Vale from trio of teenagers

Port Vale 0, Luton 1

Port Vale's trio of teenagers had no reason to rebuke themselves after last night's quick League Cup dismissal. They were selected to augment a struggling side. They finished by wringing the cheers from the crowd in a happier Vale performance.

Luton scored the "softest" goal of the season to squeeze into the second round, but Vale, rallying to give the

By J.B.

opposition a pounding in the final 20 minutes, merited a better reward for their spirit.

Manager Freddie Steele still has an acute need of an authoritative inside forward, but his side will need a larger slice of luck than they got last night, if they are to end that dismal record of five defeats—including this one—in the first six games.

Good debut

Eighteen-years-old centre-forward David Mitchell flung himself enthusiastically into his job on his first-team debut and was only inches away from an equaliser with two late efforts which had the crowd on their toes.

Mitchell looked full of promise as he launched himself into a steady stream of Ron Smith centres near the end, but Luton's goal survived the battering freakishly.

On this first outing the young centre-forward

suggested that he could develop with experience into a real "find."

Vale's bustling, much-changed team had more enthusiasm than cohesion last night, but at least they demonstrated the spirit which wins matches.

The team's most inconsistent performers were wingers Smith and Rowland. Both had the scope and opportunity to lead Vale into their first win of the season, but neither used his shot or speed to full advantage.

Twice, in the first half, Smith ran on to chances poised on the toe of his left boot — and blazed high and wide.

Snatched

Luton, calm in defence but displaying little aptitude for attacking Soccer, literally snatched victory from under Vale's nose.

After an indifferent first half, inside forward **McKechnie** rolled a harmless-looking shot goalwards in the 50th minute — and jumped with surprise when he saw Ken Hancock deceived by a deflection and move the wrong way for the ball.

It was a jolt — but three times young Mitchell went as close as anyone could to grabbing an equaliser. One header from a floating Sproson centre was finger-

tipped outside by the efficient Tinsley.

A fast, rising shot from the centre-forward grazed the bar, and a low drive was pounced upon by the goalkeeper as it sped towards the corner of the net.

But if Mitchell impressed up front, Vale seemed to have another "find" in defender Terry Alcock—the young man who has taken over the right-back spot.

Alcock's sound kicking and careful distribution were as sure as that of Roy Sproson, who returned last night to his old left-back position. This 17-years-old had the true stamp of a professional.

Mick Porter, the third member of this teenage trio, covered a lot of ground in an earnest performance. His role was in direct contrast to Luton's 16-years-old debutant inside forward Rioch.

For while the Luton youngster was "nursed" through the game by his colleagues, Porter's energy kept the home attack moving.

Much effort

Effort — not skill — was Vale's saving grace in this fourth successive defeat. Sproson was only inches outside with a header direct from a corner-kick, and Terry Miles displayed plenty of zip at wing-half.

Neither the small crowd nor American supporter Chet Wier, who was watching his first match at Vale Park, were disappointed. Teams —

PORT VALE. — Hancock, Alcock, Sproson, Rawlings, Nicholson, Miles, Rowland, Poole, Mitchell, Porter, Smith.

LUTON. — Tinsley, McBain, Jardine, Riley, Caleb, Knight, Clarke, McKechnie, Riddick, Rioch, Whittaker.

Referee: Mr. F. M. Nicholson of Manchester.

Attendance, 5,111.