LUTON FAIL TO STAY THE PACE

A high lob from the left wing intended to McKechnie, standing in front of the Sunderland goal, is pushed to safety by McLaughlan.

By C. A. COUGHLIN

Luton 0, Sunderland 3

SUNDERLAND, who on their last visit to Kenilworth Road hammered the final nail into Luton's relegation coffin two seasons ago, shot them out of the Cup with a devastating three goal spree 12 minutes from the end.

The final execution was swift and decisive. Until Sunderland's first in the 78th minute it was hard to realise that the two sides are separated by a complete Division.

Luton would not have been flattered with a goal lead at half-time for Pacey was outstanding breaking up most Sunderland attacks and coming through repeatedly and always ready to shoot.

Wingers Jardine and Pleat carried most of their attacks and a little more bite in the centre would have brought them results.

Dominating Rooks

But in Rooks, Sunderland had a dominating and hard deputy for the unfit Hurley

It was up front that Sunderland had the power in the individual skills of Mulhall, Usher and Herd. And once they fused in the final stages Luton fell away unable to last the pace.

Up to the goal-less interval the highlights in this stirring match played in a steady downpour on a soggy surface were fine efforts by Jardine, McKechnie for Luton and agonising misses by Usher and Mitchinson for Sunderland.

Riddick looked set to put Luton into a deserved lead in the 76th minute after a great run by skipper Reid, but his left foot shot was edged over by McLaughlan.

Then Sunderland struck. Usher, sent away on the right by Herd crossed Lowe to Sharkey, who almost on his knees, netted.

Goal of match

Eight minutes later Mulhall scored the goal of the match. Herd dribbled across the field in the goal area before slipping a short pass to Mulhall. The winger walked through three Luton defenders almost on the left goal line, before scoring.

In the final minute Sharkey added a third by the far post from an Usher pass after the right winger had carried the ball himself from the halfway line.

Luton's consolation effort in the closing minutes was a Pacey drive from about 20 yards that went just wide.

Luton : Baynham ; McBain, Barton ; Pacey, Caleb, Reid; Pleat, Riddick, McKechnie, Rioch, Jardine.

Sunderland : McLaughlan ; Parke, Ashurst ; Harvey, Rooks, McNab ; Usher, Mitchinson, Sharkey, Herd, Mulhall.

Referee : K. E. Walker (Blackpool).