

O'ROURKE IS SADLY MISSED IN LUTON ATTACK

Luton 0 Lincoln 0: by PETER GILL

JUDGED ON their display against a moderate Lincoln side, Luton can forget their promotion ambitions. Granted, they have the best part of a complete forward line on the injured list—and the situation does not seem likely to improve in the immediate future—but they woefully lacked an attacking force.

Luton never looked like winning this match; on the other hand they were never in danger of losing it, thanks to their capable defence. But defences, however adequate, do not win matches and the club's immediate problem is to find an alternative goal-scorer to John O'Rourke.

He stood down because of a bruised foot, though whether he would have increased his goal tally, in view of the limited material coming from the inside forwards, is anyone's guess.

Yet, O'Rourke would undoubtedly have injected some life into the game with the aid of a competent front line crew.

No incentive

Lincoln did not reveal much that was noticeably efficient, and no one can blame them for that because they lacked the incentive that a more effective opposition would have provided.

Tony Read and Dick Edwards were patently unhappy as an inside-forward pairing, and Tommy McKechnie, in the middle, spent most of his time chasing the likely shadows, but succeeding only in running into the substantial bulwark presented by Lincoln's deputy centre half Brian Heward.

In the circumstances, former youth star wingers French and Whittaker could hardly be expected

to prosper, though their finishing did them scant credit.

As for Lincoln, they were mostly content to tackle opponents as they came. At times, Joe Bonson tried to be ambitious, but was not given much encouragement, and it was Matt Woods who emerged as Luton's star player.

Taking the game through, Lincoln never really threatened to score, and Luton's only two clear chances to score were fruitless when John Moore shot over from six yards and McKechnie drove the ball against a post.

That about added up to the sum total of excitement for a bigger than average crowd who broke into the slow handclap during the second half.

No one can blame Lincoln, who saw the chance of a point and took it. They had their limitations, but their defence was sound and they played it that way.

Two minutes from the end, Whittaker went off with an injured foot, and may be doubtful for tomorrow's match at Barrow.