

LUTON 3, NEWPORT 1

NEWPORT COUNTY hurried home to Wales with John Rowland's ribs believed cracked and manager Billy Lucas's Soccer pride seriously bruised.

It was Newport's first defeat this season—and the chief cause was Luton's Ray Whittaker, who switched to the right after half an hour of Soccer stalemate.

Result: Newport's seemingly iron curtain soon had some nasty dents.

Ex-Arsenal Whittaker crossed over from the sunny side of Kenilworth Road to put across a 36th-minute corner with his left foot. Bruce Rioch side-flicked the ball and there was captain Alan Rivers racing through to hit his first League goal.

The talkative Welsh were still holding the inquest when wily Whittaker cottoned on to a pass from Gordon Riddick and thunderballed a spectacular goal from the edge of the penalty area.

Menacing

Gordon Fraser headed a neat goal for Newport but that man Whittaker was always lurking menacingly. He popped up in the centre circle with a pass for Rioch who galloped through for Luton's third.

Young Rivers marshalled the Luton colts well and Newport's bantam-weight forward line scarcely had another look in.

Newport lost stalwart John Rowland in the 76th minute and Ken Wookey substituted—but the Welsh were well beaten by then. Luton's doctor tended Rowland's rib injury and he was allowed to go home with his team mates.

LUTON: Read 6; Slough 6, Jardine 7, Rivers 7, Thomson 6; Moore 5, Riddick 7, Rioch 6; Pleat 7, French 7, *WHITTAKER 8.

NEWPORT: Beswick 5; Williams 6, Bird 6, Rowland 7, *RATHBONE 8; Hill 7, Pugh 5; Thomas 5, Fraser 6, Jones 6, Morgan 6.

Referee: R. Tinkler (Boston) 8.