

LUTON RELY ON DEFENCE

Newport County 2 Luton ... 0

Newport County manager Billy Lucas spent yesterday trying to sign Stockport County's Norman Sykes, the ex-Bristol Rovers player.

The deal did not go through because the clubs could not agree on a fee. County, however, showed improved form after a dismal run of five matches without a win, convincingly beating struggling Luton—a side dedicated to defence in depth.

Apart from a brief second-half spell when left winger Ray Whittaker hit the crossbar, Luton rarely looked like scoring.

Newport's Hill hit a post before Gordon Fraser flicked in a smart header for a 29th minute lead.

Luton's defensive formation did not inspire confidence against the fast-raiding County attack. And it was no surprise when Morgan rounded Luton's goalkeeper to score County's second 15 minutes from the end.

Newport. — Beswick; Williams, Bird; Wood, Rathbone, Rowland; Smith, Fraser, Jones. D., Hill, Morgan.

Luton.—Read; Thomson, Jardine; Conboy Riddick Moore; Pleat, Slough, Thear, Rioch, Whittaker.