

LUTON WASTE FRENCH SKILL

LUTON 0, SOUTHPORT 0

LUTON manager Allan Brown admitted that his forwards are short of craft after his team had squandered a point they could ill-afford.

Few who saw the game will disagree. The only true skill came from French, easily the best player on view, but while he frequently baffled the Southport defence, his colleagues wasted all their chances.

Billy Bingham, Southport's chief and a former Luton star, was delighted with their point, but he agreed that it was almost stolen.

Wasted

Defensive football was never the vogue when Bingham was playing, but he has quickly realised that this is the formula for away success in the Fourth Division.

From the start, Southport moved into a 4-3-3 formation that enabled them to funnel eight, sometimes nine, players back into their own penalty area when danger threatened.

That was for nearly 90 per cent of the game, for Luton hustled everything they knew into attack—and it wasn't enough. Had they had an inside man able to hold the ball and bring some order to their raids, the result would probably have been different.

However, goalkeeper Tony Read, moved into the attack again, flopped as an inside-left and Kevan was a very blunt spearhead indeed.

Often Luton must have felt that they were driving their heads against a brick-wall.

LUTON: Swan 7; Thomson 7, Jardine 8, Slough 6, Dougan 8; Riddick 5, Pleat 5; ***FRENCH** 9, Kevan 5, Read 5, Whittaker 5.

SOUTHPORT: Reeves 8; Parker 7, Cairns 6, Molyneux 7, Peat 8; Clarke 6, ***RUSSELL** 9, Alty 7; Spence 8, Fryatt 6, Smith 5.

Referee: H. New (Portsmouth) 6.