

LUTON 1, PORT VALE 1

KEITH ALLEN played himself to a standstill laying on chances for Luton yet they had to be content with a scrambled draw.

Luton showed a complete lack of imagination with no one to finish Allen's openings.

Luton, forced to field four reserves, suffered a further blow when Pleat injured his back and was replaced by Rivers for the second half.

Rivers looked out of his depth but snatched the goal when Sharratt fumbled and failed to hold Jardine's shot.

On a dry, dusty pitch Luton's attack was easily held by the Vale defence in which Alcock took the major honours. Alcock had complete control of the middle while Miles and Poole broke up many Luton attacks before they could become dangerous.

Vale did not look a good side, but it was the experience of their older campaigners that made the difference.

Wilson was their most dangerous forward and he was rewarded by a goal mid-way through the first-half when he shook off Adamson and was left clear to place his shot.

Much of the play was then negative with the players bunching so that the Luton goal came as a surprise.

LUTON: Swan 6; Adamson 6, Dougan 7, Moore 7; Conboy 6, King 5, *JARDINE 8; Whittaker 5, Pleat (inj.) 5, Allen 6, Johnson 5. Sub.: Rivers 5.

PORT VALE: Sharratt 6; Logan 6, *ALCOCK 8, Miles 7, Ritchie 7; Poole 6, Gullerton 6; Hill 6, Goodfellow 6, Georgeson 6, Wilson 7.

Referee: R. Pritchard (Salisbury) 7.

BILL EDWARDS