

LUTON DROP FIRST HOME POINT

Luton 1 Newport 1: by PETER GILL

OUT OF TOUCH in front of goal, Luton could not complain at losing their 100 per cent home record. They found Newport unexpectedly tough opposition. County went on to defence from the start—and it was a defence that cared nothing for reputations.

Even without star centre-half Alan Williams, for whom the tall, inexperienced Mike Deacy was an adequate deputy, Newport had too much know-how for the unhappy Luton forwards.

The visitors packed their danger areas, stood on no ceremony in the middle, and, having weathered the storm of the first 20 minutes, decided their task was not so tough as all that.

So they gave more rein to their attacking ability, and launched some dangerous raids that led to Len Hill putting them ahead two minutes from half time.

Having found themselves in the unusual situation of being in arrears on their home ground, Luton were expected to make a great comeback in the second half.

Certainly they went through the motions with some show of authority, but they never struck their true form, even after Allen put them level 15 minutes from the restart.

But the finishing power just was not there. Particularly was that the case at inside forward, with Ian Buxton and Bruce Rloc shut out by Newport's stern tackling.

In fact, for all Luton's feverish pressure, the more clear-cut chances fell to Newport.

Tony Buck was twice unlucky, and once badly at fault when left with a close-range chance. Former Luton winger King nearly won the match with a cracking drive that Tony Read just tipped over.