

Luton ace is French

Luton 4, Rochdale 1

ARCHITECT of Luton's best win for three months was a player whose name does not appear in the scoring list. He was the former Youth international French, whose recall instead of the recently signed winger from Coventry, Denton, came as a surprise to most.

However, French at his best is one of the best wingers in the Fourth Division and he was very much on top form as Rochdale have cause to remember. Never could they subdue him, even when they brought on their substitute Galloway after half-time for this specific job.

Despite the ascendancy Luton gained, partly through the efforts of French, Rochdale must have gone back North with the uncomfortable feeling that they should have achieved better things.

Bitter memory

Almost certainly they had a bitter memory of the first minute when Hutchinson should have done better than shoot straight at Read from point-blank range.

Soon afterwards, the Luton scoring machine began to grind with Rioch leading the way with a glorious goal. Fletcher equalised during one of several slack periods that overcame the Luton defence, but immediately Allen restored the lead and Buxton and Branston put Luton in a commanding position at half-time.

Luton brought in Rodney Green for Buxton, who had a slight strain, and the attack never showed the same smoothness though Green can scarcely be blamed for that.

Luton: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Slough, Branston, Moore; French, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, Whitaker. Sub.: Green.

Rochdale: Green; Cockroft, Reid; Taylor, Jenkins, Smith; Harley Russell, Fletcher, Melledew, Hutchinson. Sub.: Calloway.

Referee: D. R. Nippard (Bournemouth)