

Defence in depth foils Luton

Luton 0 Chester 0: by PETER GILL

LUTON RESERVED one of their worst displays for their biggest Saturday gate of the season and one wonders whether the strain at the top of the Fourth Division is beginning to tell on them.

Manager Allan Brown admits that maybe his team are becoming a little jaded, but he blamed the unexpected loss of a point to a deficiency in the build-up in midfield.

Luton played into the hands of Chester, who came with defence uppermost in their minds, and were never inclined to take the slightest risk in their own penalty area.

At times their 4-3-3 formation became 4-4-2 and in times of danger they did not hesitate to pack 10 players into their penalty area.

Luton have been confronted with these sort of tactics before but one would have thought they had never even heard of deep defence by the way in which they set about their task.

Instead of a smooth build-up from the middle of the field and the shrewd low through pass they constantly ballooned the ball high into the penalty area and that was made to measure for the tall Chester defenders.

On the few occasions that clear-cut openings appeared they

were allowed to pass because of indecisive finishing and Ray Whittaker was the chief culprit.

Afterwards there was little sign of an end to the deadlock even though Luton introduced Rodney Green at centre forward for Keith Allan after an hour.

Chester deserved their point, even though the methods they employed allied with the liveliness of the ball robbed the game of most of its attraction.

Certainly Chester could not be faulted in defence, in which Singleton, Turner, Ashworth, and Jones stood out.