

Wind blows Luton on promotion way

A TERRIFIC gust of wind blew Luton two points closer to their goal of Second Division football. And the same gust which gave Luton a fluke goal after only 30 seconds finally burst Oldham's hopes of escaping relegation.

The shock goal came after Luton goalkeeper Sandy Davie had cleared Oldham's first probing attack with a great upfield boot.

The ball, carried by a strong gust, went on to bounce twice in Oldham's half. Luton centre forward Laurie Sheffield and Oldham half-back Alan Hunter were both beaten as they leapt for it.

Oldham skipper Alan Lawson, 10 yards behind, jumped high to try and head clear, but the ball, whipped on by the playful wind, bounced off the back of his head and beat his Oldham goalkeeper Barry Gordine.

The goal may have been a fluke and unfortunate for centre-half Lawson and Oldham, but Luton's win was well earned.

Striker Sheffield, in top form against his former team mates, was a constant threat as he roamed in the Oldham penalty zone. He and inside partner Keith Allen had shot after shot halted by Gordine's brilliant acrobatics.

But Oldham never stopped

by PETER HILL

Oldham - - - - - 0

Luton - - - - - 1

trying and inside forward Keith Bebbington—their most dangerous forward—came within inches of scoring several times. But Davie, well protected by his determined defence, managed to touch the ball over the bar or round the posts.

With the wind advantage, Oldham kept up the pressure but Luton's defence, organised with mechanical efficiency by skipper Terry Branstons, repeatedly caught them on the hop with well executed offside traps.

And Luton's coolness—though they were a little ruffled in a final hectic flurry—matched all the bursts of enthusiasm that Oldham's forwards could show.

But if Luton plan to force their way to promotion they will have to find more deadly support for lone forwards Sheffield and Allen.