



● Luton's Malcolm Macdonald and John Collins leap for a heading duel with Stockport centre-half Danny Campbell

Nicholl turns into marksman for Luton 69/70

SO LUTON roar on towards their Second Division objective, but there was not much spring about their stride on this occasion. In fact, with their strikers blunted by some close marking, Luton had to rely on a goal from their centre half Chris Nicholl and a second-half penalty to take the points.

It was a somewhat laboured victory. Once again Luton found extreme difficulty in overcoming a team who concentrated so much on defence.

Stockport's manager, Walter Galbraith, said afterwards that the instructions to his men were to shut out Matt Tees and Graham French, whom he regarded as Luton's danger men.

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In French's case Stockport succeeded and the winger had his most unproductive match of the season. But Tees had his best home game to date and but for the brilliance of goalkeeper Alan Ogley could well have gained a hat-trick.

Tees laid on the first goal for Nicholl by heading a corner from the left to the feet of the centre-half.

There was a good deal of effort from Malcolm Macdonald, Luton's leading scorer, but all he had to show for it was the goal he netted from the penalty spot exactly on the hour.

Tees was again concerned in

by PETER GILL

Luton	-	-	-	2
Stockport	-	-	-	0

the goal, being the man pulled down by Fred Goodwin.

There were times when Stockport, again forced to make changes through illness and injuries, fought back gallantly with nippy winger John Price a lively aider and Barry Hartie using the overlap well.

However Luton's defence, in which Nicholl and Alan Slough stood out, was in no mood to yield and for all their bravery Stockport never seemed to be within reach of a point once they went into arrears.

But their display gave promise for the future and Galbraith feels that once Stockport are over the present unlucky patch they will climb the table. Certainly they look a better side than their present position would suggest.

Luton will play better and lose, but manager Alec Stock was undaunted. "Winning is what this game is all about and you don't earn medals for playing brilliantly and losing," he said.