

Wingers capped all Owls' efforts



MICK PRENDERGAST heads for goal as Luton keeper **Read** tries to collect. But the Sheffield Wednesday inside-forward saw the ball finish wide.

FOUR great names from Wednesday's past, Jack Ball, Mark Hooper, Ronnie Starling and Tommy Walker, playing colleagues in the thirties, were the Owls' guests for this afternoon's match against Luton Town at Hillsborough.

Wednesday had Kenny Burton and Harold Wilcockson back in the side. They took over from Gerry Young and Sammy Todd, both injured, as the only changes from last week's derby match team.

THE TEAMS

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: Grummitt; Wilcockson, Burton; Thompson, Ellis, Craig; Sinclair, Prendergast, Downes, Warboys, Sissons, Sub.: Pugh.
LUTON TOWN: Read; Ryan (John), Slough; Hoy, Nicholl, Moore, Ryan (Jim), Court, MacDonald, Kean, Givens, Sub.: Busby.
Referee: J. Finney (Hertford).

Despite Wednesday's great effort at the Lane, the crowd was of slim proportions for this afternoon's match, in perfect conditions.

From the start, it was obvious that Wednesday were going to continue with last week's tactical switch of Craig up front and Pownes in midfield.

The early minutes were full of enterprise from Luton with Thompson twice putting safely back to Grummitt and then getting in a splendid tackle when MacDonald looked set to score from Givens' header.

Dangerous

A good header from Prendergast, putting Sinclair's corner wide of an upright, and then a spectacular, but off-target volley from Craig, put Wednesday in better heart against the sharper looking Luton side.

Tension returned to the Owls ranks when the lively

two, with Prendergast mis-kicking the loose ball, and then a deflection earning the visitors the relief of a corner.

A minute before half-time Luton got a smash and grab second goal. Court and MacDonald got the better of some rather lackadaisical defensive work on Wednesday's right flank and GIVENS had an easy job to stick the low cross into the net.

Right from the kick-off Luton swept down again and MACDONALD drifted into space and hammered a third nail in Wednesday's coffin to send Luton in three up.

Half-time: Sheffield W 0
Luton T ... 3

The Owls lined up to start their monumental second half task with Sissons at centre-forward and Warboys out on the left.

It was Luton, playing with almost insolent ease, who came forward with Jim Ryan, Court and Slough picking their way through the right flank of the Owls' defence for a final cross ball which just eluded Givens.

Town seemed quicker and more decisive all round and some of the Owls' misplaced passes in the early minutes of this half had the crowd in a buzz of anxiety.

Wilcockson pulled Kean down three strides outside the penalty area, but the free-kick was well cleared.

There were welcome signs that Wednesday recognised the seriousness of their plight when Sinclair put in a drive which had Read in some trouble. Then the winger did extremely well to push one forward for Prendergast, but a Luton boot just got there first to scramble the ball away for a corner.

Contrast

There was an atmosphere of hustle and bustle about Wednesday in direct contrast to the swift skill of Luton.

This was demonstrated when Jimmy Ryan, seizing on a bad kick by Grummitt, sent John Ryan clear on the overlap and a fourth goal looked on until Ellis came back to head for a corner.

A fine move by Givens and MacDonald had Wednesday in deep trouble again but Wilcockson stepped in quickly to relieve the situation with a back pass to Grummitt.

Wednesday, it seemed, could do nothing right and first Givens and then MacDonald came close to stretching Luton's lead even further.

The Owls were finding it all they could do to keep themselves on an even keel and Grummitt had to make a spectacular save after Court had chipped a ball to the far post, where MacDonald tried bravely for the header that would bring him the hat-trick his still deserved.

Right back John Ryan ran directly at Wednesday's defence, was given time and space, and when he found GIVENS, the former Manchester United player took his time and hit a strong right foot shot clear of Grummitt.

Although their cause seemed hopeless Wednesday at last gave the critical audience a moment to remember when Warboys chipped on for SINCLAIR to score a fine goal, with Luton appealing for off-side.

Ten minutes from the end MACDONALD completed his hat-trick with another thunderbolt. A ball from left back Slough tore Wednesday's defence apart and MacDonald spurned the chance of an easy pass to Givens, going on and putting a tremendous shot past Grummitt.

RESULT:—

SHEFFIELD WED 1

LUTON 5



MacDonald switched the pattern of play with a splendid ball to Jimmy Ryan — but the winger was trapped off-side.

There were signs that Wednesday were finding their rhythm and also signs that Craig might prove troublesome. He fired in a shot which Read did well to turn over and was there again from the corner heading just wide, but in the 16th minute Wednesday DONALD shot a glorious goal for Luton.

Kean made the running, then held the ball cleverly until releasing it, for MacDonald to score with a fierce surprise shot from just inside the penalty area. It was a great goal.

The quality of Luton's play continued to suggest that Wednesday were in for a struggle, but Warboys, having a tussle with Nicholl, warned Luton with a header that Read saved well by his left hand post. Read was again in action cutting out Sinclair's centre after Warboys had done the build-up.

Ellis hurt

There was a long hold-up for treatment to Ellis, the centre half having been hurt as he threaded the ball through for Sissons. When play was resumed, it was a corner kick for Wednesday but it brought Read no anxiety as Prendergast headed over.

Downes and Craig had resorted to their more usual roles in an effort to turn the tide.

Luton, looking crisper and more decisive, took the eye however, until Prendergast again scared them with a well taken header that flashed wide of Read's right hand upright.

Luton's defence got itself into terrible trouble five minutes before half-time. Read missed a corner from Sinclair, and a defender blocked Sissons' shot on the line.

There was a fair old scramble for a moment or