

Artistry of Luton makes it look so easy

70/71
by FRANK HEYWOOD

Sheffield Wed 1 Luton 5

A CLASSIC hat-trick from the lethal left foot of Malcolm MacDonald took Luton to the decisive win their superior skill and method demanded at Hillsborough yesterday.

Luton, stroking the ball about in a controlled, leisurely style, coasted through a match that was won and lost before half-time, and was so one-sided that it even made comedian Eric Morecambe feel gloomy.

Morecambe, a Luton director, confessed afterwards: "I feel sorry for Sheffield. It was all too one-sided for me; but we played extremely well. We gave them little scope and we had five chances and took every one of them."

"It was a knock-out performance, and at this rate I fancy our chances of getting to the First Division."

MacDonald's goals were sheer artistry, all of them taken in clean-cut fashion by a man oozing with confidence, all of them utterly exposing Wednesday's laboured defence.

The first came after 14 Luton-dominated minutes when MacDonald finished off a move between David Court and Mike Keen with a 25-yard shot that gave Peter Grummitt no chance.

STRANDED

Only once, when goalkeeper Tony Read was stranded off his line, did Luton falter, and then they destroyed Wednesday with two goals in two minutes just on half-time.

MacDonald created the first with a cross that Don Givens sidefooted home, and he then scored the next with a marvellous display of ball-juggling.

He flicked the ball over centre half Sam Ellis, controlled it as it dropped, and then moved in on goal, delaying his shot until the last moment before beating Grummitt from a narrow angle.

Luton had to soak up a brief flurry of pressure early in the second half, but in the 64th minute Givens drifted through to John Ryan's pass to score.

Jackie Sinclair scored for Wednesday when Luton were, for once, outnumbered at the back, but, nine minutes from time, MacDonald completed a memorable trio of goals.

SHEFF WED.—Grummitt: Wilcockson, Burton, Thompson, Ellis, Craig, Sinclair, Prendergast, Downes, Warboys, Sissons.

LUTON TOWN.—Read: Ryan (John), Slough, Hoy, Nicholl, Moore, Ryan (Jim), Court, MacDonald, Keen, Givens.