

Town's television treat . . .

Roger Duckworth Verdict



LUTON ran Sheffield Wednesday silly at Hillsborough this afternoon to provide a television treat for Yorkshire soccer lovers tomorrow.

Malcolm Macdonald went on the rampage to score two terrific first-half goals and lay a third one on for his Irish partner Don Givens.

And with dispirited Sheffield trooping about dejectedly in the second half Givens rolled home a fourth from a nice through ball from John Ryan.

Luton were so superior in every department that the Wednesday crowd

began to jeer their own team and shout abuse at their directors.

Apart from a short bout of jitters in the first half by the Luton defence the Town were never in any danger and played some magnificent football that will be long remembered in the steel town of the North.

The Luton attack was superb with Macdonald and Givens in unstoppable form

Nicholl and Moore were again in outstanding form but this comment must not detract from the brilliance of their colleagues.

MAC THE KNIFE SLAYS SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1 LUTON 5

LUTON's ace marksman Malcolm Macdonald and fit-again Don Givens cut the Wednesday defence to pieces at Hillsborough this afternoon to put Town within an ace of the Division Two leadership.

These men from the cutlery town had no answer to Macdonald and company and were 4-0 down before Sinclair gave them some cold comfort.

There was a rather slow start, but after some hard work in the middle by Keen, Macdonald went on a long chase on the right but was beaten for possession by Thompson.

The first goalmouth thrill — if it can be called that — came from the Luton attack. A lofted "up and under" from Mike Keen was challenged in the Sheffield goalmouth, but keeper Grummitt broke quickly to fist away under threat from Macdonald.

And Luton continued to press for an early goal when first Hoy went wide with a shot and then the same player and Givens just missed a low cross from John Ryan which split the Wednesday defence in two.

Robbed

And twice in the fifth minute Macdonald might have netted had the luck gone with him. On both occasions Givens flicked the ball on with his head and Macdonald was just robbed at the last minute each time.

But there was some indecision in the Luton defence when Warboys was allowed to head a Sissons' cross back across the goalmouth to Craig. The Scotsman's first-time blast went high into the second tier of the stand behind the goal, however.

Read had to move sharply to tip over a fierce drive from Craig but the backline was held together brilliantly by Nicholl and when Luton took the pressure off, they went straight to the other end and scored with a picture goal from Malcolm MACDONALD.

Luton attacked down the middle and Court pushed a short pass to his centre-forward. Macdonald burst between two hesitant defenders, took the ball in his stride on his deadly left foot and from just inside the penalty box thrashed it past Grummitt.

Pressure

A bit of slack marking by Moore, who looked as if he was leaving things to Nicholl, had to be put right by the Luton centre-half who was again having a splendid match and keeping the lively looking Warboys at bay.

Luton suffered some pressure after a stern tussle between Slough and Sinclair had ended with a free-kick to Wednesday. But again Nicholl headed clear and Keen and

Jimmy Ryan won the ball upfield for Luton before Sheffield got a grip on the situation again.

Then Sheffield centre-half Ellis and Luton's Chris Nicholl in rapid succession had to have treatment but both recovered.

Full-back Wilcockson sparked one of Sheffield's best moves in the 37th minute, but Moore was right on hand to put the ball behind for a corner and avert the danger.

Five minutes before the break Luton had an amazing let off when goalkeeper Read suffered an unnerving set of jitters.

First of all he conceded a corner after dropping a rather sharp back pass from Moore. He fumbled the corner and then ran around in hopeless confusion trying to fly hack the ball clear in a melee of defenders as Sheffield peppered his goal.

It all ended when Moore cleared the shot from Sissons off the goal-line.

But Luton hit back in the best way possible — with a goal. They played some good football down the middle and Macdonald pushed a crafty little pass into the goal area for GIVENS to run up to and calmly side foot into the net.

Bemused

And before Jim Finney had time to blow the half-time whistle MACDONALD set off again wandered through the wide open spaces of the Wednesday defence and smashed the ball into the roof of the net past the bemused Grummitt.

HT: Sheffield Wednesday 0 Luton Town 3

After ending the first half in that whirl of goals Luton were cock-a-hoop when they came out to restart the game. Court, Jimmy Ryan baffled the Sheffield defence and Givens was only a fraction too short to convert Slough's cross with his head.

Luton began to play around a bit and Sheffield went forward on a confident looking attack but Read saved Sinclair's shot on the line.

And a minute later Prendergast burst through after a Sinclair pass and it took some quick thinking — and running

are both injured, so the defence had to be reshuffled with Harold Wilcockson and Ken Burton coming in as the two full-backs.

On the left wing for Wednesday was John Sissons, their £66,000 close-season signing from West Ham, and in defence was Tommy Craig, the expensive Scotsman who was enticed over the border in a £100,000 deal.

The match was televised by Yorkshire Television for transmission tomorrow afternoon. And with Luton third in the table they were hoping they would have something to brag about to the people of Yorkshire.

— by Nicholl to put the ball over for a corner for which every Sheffield player, except Thompson went up.

The Sheffield fans were getting restless and the second half was only 12 minutes old when they started slow-handclapping.

It was just too easy for the Town. In the 64th minute John Ryan pushed a gentle through ball into the path of GIVENS and the Luton Irishman strolled through as if he had all the time in the world and calmly planted the ball past Grummitt into the Sheffield net for Luton's fourth goal.

This goal brought further dissent from the Sheffield crowd and a portion of them in the main stand began to shout abuse at the Wednesday directors.

Strolled

There was some consolation, albeit a bit cold, for the Wednesday fans when SINCLAIR pulled a goal back in the 68th minute. It was a good solo effort and he left-footed the ball passed Read as Nicholl and Ryan converged on him.

With eight minutes to go, goal-hungry MACDONALD carved his way through the middle of the Sheffield defence and rocketed his hat-trick goal past the mesmerised Grummitt who will want to forget this afternoon for sure.

MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

TEAMS

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: Grummitt; Wilcockson, Burton; Thompson, Ellis Craig; Sinclair, Prendergast, Downes, Warboys, Sissons. Sub: Pugh.

LUTON TOWN: Read; John Ryan, Slough; Hoy, Nicholl, Moore; Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby.

REFEREE: Mr Jim Finney (Hereford).

GOALS

MACDONALD (Luton) 14mins

GIVENS (Luton) 44min

MACDONALD (Luton) 45min

GIVENS (Luton) 64mins

SINCLAIR (Sheffield) 68mins

MACDONALD (Luton) 81mins

Attendance: 15,189

So little fervour on bleak moor...

THE VAST stands of Hillsborough were virtually empty, with most of the disappointing crowd gathered on the Kop, when the teams ran out for this afternoon's match.

Even renderings of On Ilkley Moor Baht-At by the local brass band failed to raise any patriotic fervour.

But Luton's hopes were high despite the lack of enthusiasm, and with Don Givens making an amazing recovery from the injury he received against Arsenal during the week, Luton were unchanged, with Viv Busby substitute.

Sheffield were not so lucky. Gerry Young and Sammy Todd