

Baker puts brakes on Luton

By **TERRY McNEILL**

Luton 1 Sunderland 2

THE ANGUISHED looks on the Luton players' faces told it all. Their home record lay in ruins and their gallop towards the First Division had come to a shattering halt.

Luton ran into a brilliant Jim Montgomery and suffered agonies as the ball seemed to go out of its way to run unkindly for them.

But more realistically, Luton will be angry with themselves for not marking the crafty Joe Baker.

The ex-England leader scored Sunderland's first when he was left unmarked towards the end of the first half and it was his quick thinking that finished it nine minutes from the end.

Baker waited to take a free-kick until Bobby Kerr had ghosted into the right position and the young Scot had only to stoop to nod the winner from the precise chip.

But Sunderland's defence was under a tremendous strain in the first half when Luton pounded Montgomery.

Cec Irwin spectacularly kicked a shot from Don Givens off the line, Malcolm Macdonald was twice sent sprawling in the penalty area and the leader hit the underside of the bar.

After Baker's 40th-minute goal, Macdonald brought another stunning save from Montgomery, Roger Hoy hit the goalkeeper on the knees and Mike Keen drove into the side netting.

Finally, with 12 minutes remaining, Macdonald crashed in his 15th goal of the season.

It was a goal worthy of a point, but Luton should have kept closer contact with the experienced Baker.

LUTON. — Read, Ryan (John), Slough, Hoy, Nicholl, Moore, Ryan (Jimmy), Court, MacDonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby.

SUNDERLAND. — Montgomery, Irwin, Harvey, Todd, Pitt, McGiven, Park, Porterfield, Baker, Kerr, Hughes. Sub: Chambers.