

LUTON MASTER HULL PLODDERS

STEVE HOLBROOK, former schoolboy international, playing his first senior match on Hull's right wing, received precious few chances from a Luton defence as strongly co-ordinated as their brilliant attack. Placing blame for defeat, a critical finger must be pointed at Hull's slow-moving, unimaginative defence.

Player-manager Terry Neill at no time had the ace marksman, centre-forward Malcolm Macdonald, in his grip, and the backs, Don Beardsley and Roger De Vries were repeatedly chasing the shadows of wingmen Don Givens and Jimmy Ryan.

Beardsley, in the 12th minute, attempted to pass the ball back to Ian McKechnie, but only succeeded in landing it at the feet of Givens, who recovered from his surprise in time to tap the ball past the helpless goalkeeper.

Hull had their moments. In the first minute, Houghton crowned a delightful all-round passing movement by driving just wide of a post. Again, Ian Butler volleyed powerfully on to Tony Read's chest, and the rebound went the right way for Luton.

But these were exceptions, and most of the thrills happened near the Hull goalmouth.

In 28 minutes, Macdonald scored his usual goal. It was inevitable, so easily did the Luton leader run round Neill and company. Ryan and Givens combined to send over a splendid

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Hull - - - - - 0

Luton - - - - - 2

cross which Macdonald headed on.

This Luton trio of Macdonald, Givens and Ryan will be the scourge of many better defences than Hull's.

Mark you, they were not faultless: Macdonald missed two sitters in the first-half.



Chris Chilton had a thin afternoon against Chris Nicholl. Ian Butler, on the left wing, was Hull's star forward.

Luton not only had a tremendous centre half in Nicholl, but grand wing halves in John Moore and Roger Hoy.

HULL CITY. — McKechnie; Beardsley, De Vries, Wilkinson, Neill, Simpkin, Holbrook, Houghton, Chilton, Wagstaff, Butler, Sub: Banks.

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