

Luton escape

lightly

By JAMES KIRK

Sheffield Utd. 2, Luton 1

SHEFFIELD UNITED took an important step towards promotion by beating Luton, one of their most persistent challengers.

It was an exciting match which ought to have resulted in a more emphatic win, for Currie twice hit a post, once from a penalty, and Dearden missed from close in.

Luton escaped lightly, but some of their defensive football, particularly from Read and Keen was of high quality, although never good enough to control Woodward who scored both the United's goals.

By comparison MacDonald, who not long ago scored a hat-trick in Sheffield against Wednesday, was kept under strict control by Powell and Colquhoun who seldom put a foot wrong.

MacDonald threatened danger with his long throws, and he gave Hope, Sheffield's new goalkeeper one hard shot to hold, but Luton were so defensively minded that they were never able to give him much support.

Top form

Hope was the most prominent of the United's three new players. Early on he made it plain that the penalty area was his territory, and until he blotted his copy book by dropping the ball, enabling Jim Ryan to score with 20 minutes to go.

It was largely because both goalkeepers were on top of their form that the first half ended without a score, Sheffield being unable to outwit Read and Nicholl who played a masterly game at centre-half.

In the second half Woodward, roving into the middle broke loose to score from a centre from the right.

By that time Luton were in danger of being outplayed but Keen, Nicholl and MacDonald and Hoy never gave up.

Ryan's goal upset Sheffield and there were many anxious moments before the pressure was eased.

Sheffield United: Hope; Badger.
Hemsley; Powell, Colquhoun, Hockey;
Woodward, Ford, Dearden, Currie, Reece.
Luton: Read; Ryan John, Slough;
Hoy, Nicholl, Moore; Ryan Jim, Court.
MacDonald, Keen, Givens.