

STOCK SAYS IT AGAIN—NO MAC DEAL

70/71

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

LUTON TOWN 2, SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

TOWN MANAGER ALEC STOCK continued to hotly deny rumours of a pending £300,000 deal that could take Luton's Malcolm Macdonald and Chris Nicholl to Newcastle after Saturday's tame draw with Sheffield.

Surrounded by inquisitive reporters in the club's expensive new boardroom, Mr Stock denied any knowledge of the deal that could wipe out the club's £170,000 deficit on the past year.

"There seems to be some wonderful tales going around," he said. "If there were a deal like that going on I assure you I would know about it."

Still it's a good topic of conversation for there was not much to talk about from the match. "It was a game for boys," said a disgusted Luton manager. "I have just been into the dressing room and had a go at one or two of them — and that's something I don't often do."

"It's the first time since I've been here that I've said that. It's no good them moaning about light balls and too much bounce and so on."

"We have not always had a lot of pace in midfield. Today that was not the only slow quarter."

"When I start looking around for new players I shall be looking for pace and ability."

Anderson goal

It's fair comment. Early on, Luton looked as if they were going to give Wednesday's hesitant defence the sort of roasting they did in that five-goal performance at Hillsborough.

But even, after Anderson had given them a two-minute lead Luton began to fade. This was a typical middle-of-the-table, end-of-the-season show.

Macdonald could not get his line moving because of a serious lack of prompting from midfield, where Court, returning to the side, stood out like a daffodil in a bunch of nettles.

There was a promising debut from goalkeeper Keith Barber who showed good anticipation, agility and courage. But he must be blamed for helping in Sinclair's 33rd minute equaliser.

With the attendance more than halved following a poor Easter performance, the game never got into top gear. It was friendly soccer in the sun. Beach stuff.