

Luton fade with Mac in chains

Luton 2 Sheffield Wednesday 2: by PHILIP OSBORN

TWO GIFT GOALS blasted Luton's hopes of recovering some of the local goodwill lost by their Easter collapse. In front of only 12,308 spectators, Luton's lowest League gate of the season, Malcolm Macdonald, the £150,000 subject of transfer speculation, sparked only intermittently.

The close attentions of Colin Prohett and Allan Thompson confined the burly striker to only two really menacing moments.

A glorious 30-minute hooked shot on the run produced a save to match from Peter Grummitt, and in the 77th minute Macdonald surged in to hit the Wednesday sidenecking.

Apart from these, his scoring efforts were restricted to one weak shot easily saved, one blocked and one across the face of the goal.

The few flashes of excitement stemmed from the wings of both sides. Luton's pair, Peter Anderson and Don Givens, set the pattern in the second minute. Givens beat two men in a tight space and set up a chance for Anderson to shoot his first senior goal.

Anderson, direct and vigorous, had another good shot blocked at the post by Grummitt in the 18th minute.

Wednesday, well prompted by Tommy Craig, were also promising down the flanks with Jacky Sinclair and John Sissons full of skilful running.

Both tested Keith Barber, making his debut in goal for Luton, with long shots before Wednesday equalised in the 32nd minute.

And unhelpfully for Barber, he had to carry the blame.

Sinclair put in from the right and hot from 20 yards.

He did not muster much power but Barber fumbled badly, appearing to reach the ball and then allow it to dribble through his hands into the net.

Barber had earlier seemed set for an impressive debut, diving superbly to reach a Mike Prendergast header.

David Court was the key man in many Luton moves and he created the 52nd-minute goal by Don Givens which restored Luton's lead. But three minutes later another blunder by the always-suspect Luton defence brought Wednesday level again.

ROBBED

Jack Bannister dallied in his own penalty area. He was robbed by Sinclair and David Sunley had an easy chance to shoot the equaliser.

Macdonald tried hard to break clear but Viv Busby provided the best remaining moment for Luton, a searing shot which Grummitt tipped away.

Luton manager Alec Stock said: "I thought this would be a good opportunity to give some of the younger players a chance but at times it seemed as though some of our men just didn't want to run."

LUTON. — Barber; Ryan, Bannister, Court, Slough, Moore, Anderson, Busby, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Hoy.
SHEFFIELD WED. — Grummitt; Rodrigues, Burton, Thompson, Prohett, Pugh, Sinclair, Craig, Sunley, Prendergast, Sissons. Sub: Mullen.