

Young Wainwright lifts Luton

ROBIN WAINWRIGHT, one of the bright young hopefuls manager Alec Stock believes can bring the crowds back to Kenilworth Road, steered Luton to their first win of the season. The 20-year-old striker, making his fifth appearance, notched his first goal in senior Soccer and laid on another to end Town's dismal sequence of six draws and a defeat. But Middlesbrough returned north convinced they had done enough to earn at least one point.

This view was shared by the Luton boss who said later: "They are easily the best side we've seen here this season—far ahead of Norwich, for example."

Borough lost skipper Nobby Stiles with a leg injury in the 22nd minute. They were refused what appeared to be a valid penalty claim for hands against Alan Slough in the 80th minute. And, in a game riddled with defensive errors, they were the more composed imaginative side.



John Hickton deservedly shot Middlesbrough ahead in the 11th minute after Derrick Downing had intercepted a weak back pass by Don Shanks.

It was a surprise when Stuart Boam blundered, failing to clear and let Vic Halom in for his first goal for Luton to equalise in the 17th minute.

As Borough maintained a hot pace tempers rose and Bristol referee Maurice Washer had to book Luton's Slough and Borough's McMordie in the 25th minute.

Middlesbrough's midfield control allowed Luton's attack little scope, but they almost snatched the lead through Peter Anderson in the 40th minute.

by PHILIP OSBORN

Luton - - - - - 3

Middlesbrough - 2

Gordon Jones saved Borough by heading off the line.

Another defensive mistake, this time by Borough goalkeeper Willie Whigham presented Luton with the lead in the 54th minute. Whigham allowed an innocuous cross to slip through his hands and Wainwright only had to side foot the ball home.

But Middlesbrough still looked good for a point. Vincent and Downing, always a lively menace were only inches wide with their efforts.

Then in the 84th minute Wainwright fashioned a superb through ball for Anderson to break away and make it 3-1.

Two minutes from time Willie Badden flicked on a free-kick to make it 3-2 with his sixth goal since being converted from a defensive role. But that was little consolation for Borough who had worked so hard for so little reward.

LUTON.—Road: Ryan (John), Shanks, Slough, Nicholl, Moore, Wainwright, Keen, Halom, Givens, Anderson. Sub: Ryan (Jimmy).

MIDDLESBROUGH. — Whigham; Grass, Jones, Stiles, Boam, Gates, Downing, McMordie, Maddren, Hickton, Vincent. Sub: Laidlaw.