

Barber and Nicholl Luton heroes

Hull 0 Luton 0: by ROY THOMAS

LUTON OWE much to the acrobatic goalkeeping of Kelth Barber. I can only remember him failing to gather one high ball as he daringly dashed out to collect centres full of menace. It did not matter then, for always on hand was the tall, resolute figure of centre half Chris Nicholl, who gave centre forward Paul Reilly a thin time.

Early in the game referee Morrissey was rather severe on Nicholl when he booked him for what amounted to no more than obstruction of Ian Butler.

Hull certainly lacked a marksmen to reproduce their form of three days earlier, against Swindon, and one wonders whether the absence of young forward Stuart Pearson upset the rhythm.

After all, this 20-year-old local discovery is their top scorer and improving game by game.

Hull certainly lacked a marksman, but so did Luton, who have drawn seven League matches.



Luton's Don Givens will probably never forgive himself for missing the gift of the match when a fine centre from Jimmy Ryan beat everyone and went to the feet of Givens, who missed the ball from five yards out.

This uninspired exhibition confirms at least one truth that negative football of this type will never attract the customers.

Malcolm Lord, Hull's utility forward who is in and out of the team like a jack in a box, is often the recipient of the slow handclap.

But this time he left the field with a round of applause fully deserved because no one played harder.

HULL—McKechnie; Banks, Beardsley, P. Greenwood, Nell, Knishton, Lord, Simpson, O'Reilly, Houghton, Butler, Sub: Hultan.

LUTON—Barber; John Ryan, Shanks, Slough, Nicholl, Moore, Wainwright, Keen, Hale, Givens, Jimmy Ryan, Sub: Court.