

LUTON HELD BY GIBSON

LUTON WOULD have travelled home with two points last night but for the instinctive anticipation and agility of experienced Bristol 'keeper Mike Gibson. In an old-style display of confidence, Gibson soared to tip a 20-yard free kick from Mike Keen away for a corner.

Then, as the ball curled into the middle from the corner, Chris Nicholl's header was beaten out again by Gibson.

City were shadows of the team that set the pace in the Second Division during September.

An early injury to Gerry Gow added to their tactical worries, although 19-year-old substitute Dave Bruton demonstrated his skill as a potential first-team sweeper.

Luton, with goalkeeper Tony Read cold from inactivity, were marginally the more effective side. They always threatened to exploit the occasional lapses in the home defence and yet failed to score.

FOILED

Gordon Hindson, sought by City two months ago before moving from Newcastle to Luton, hammered one fine first-half shot just wide of the far post. Vic Halom, who should have scored, was foiled by Gibson. And Don Givens cracked a shot rashly over the bar.

Givens and full-back John Ryan were booked but worse offences went unpunished.

On the evidence of this game, the return of Les Wilson—on loan last season—has not solved midfield lack of authority. Neither he nor Gerry Sweeney

by DAVID FOOT

Bristol City - - - 0
Luton - - - - - 0

contributed significantly to the attacking pattern of City.

They suffered from a total absence of penetration and mobility by their young strikers while Trevor Tainton sliced one of the few clear-cut chances that came to the home forwards.

Luton's defence, built around Nicholl, had something to spare and Keen always looked efficient.

BRISTOL CITY.—Gibson: Wimshurst, Drysdale, Wilson, Rocks, Merrick, Tainton, Spiring, Broomfield, Sweeney, Gow. Sub: Bruton.

LUTON.—Read: Ryan, Slough, Keen, Nicholl, Moore, Anderson, Court, Halom, Givens, Hindson. Sub: Wainwright.