

LUTON OVERRUN AFTER SETTING THE PACE

LUTON trudged dejectedly from the Hillsborough pitch as their rivals and conquerors, Sheffield Wednesday, enjoyed a standing ovation from the crowd. Yet Luton had begun so brightly to suggest quite another atmosphere at the final whistle.

Only a point behind Wednesday, Luton had the confidence and ambition to send five men forward, and kept the Sheffield defenders at full stretch for most of the first half-hour.

But by half-time it became clear that this was to be a day for the home side. Craig began to challenge Luton's midfield dominance, and Holsgrove side-footed his free-kick past Barber. Within three minutes Rodrigues volleyed a once-in-a-lifetime goal from the wing to double the lead.

Luton never got back into the battle, and goals by Prendergast and Eustace made their defeat doubly certain.