

Luton fall to veteran Ken

AN HOUR after the final whistle Luton players were still in their dressing-room—giving evidence at an inquest conducted by manager Harry Haslam. Hull skipper John Kaye might have been able to help. His verdict: "Luton never looked like scoring in the second half."

"They were playing it straight up and down the pitch, and we could see everything coming."

Luton had ventured a few hopeful attacks after Les Harfield was brought on in place of Gordon Hindson in the 80th minute.

But they rarely seemed likely to correct their strange inability to produce their best form at home.

It was long-serving Ken Houghton who rapped in the two fine Hull goals that beat them.

BURST

Houghton, who has been struggling to maintain a regular place for two seasons, put in his surprise double burst early in the second half.

"That's just what I need," he said later. "It must be the first time I've got a couple for seasons. And I'd scored only once before this season."

The way Hull grasped control was a rude shock for the home fans after a bright Luton opening had promised an end to a run of three home draws.

Even after a remarkable eighth-minute miss by Rodney Fern there was plenty for the home fans to relish as wingers Jimmy Ryan and John Aston threatened to paralyse Hull.

Fern put clear by a superb pass from Peter Anderson, rounded Geoff Wealands and side-footed the ball towards the empty net.

But he hit far too weakly, and Kaye was chased back to block and clear it.

by PHILIP OSBORN

Luton 1 Hull 2

Two minutes later Luton's impressive wing play paid off.

Vic Hallom sent Jim Ryan away, and then surged on to meet the perfectly placed cross to the near post and head his ninth goal of the season.

That should have been the signal for Luton to bolster their promotion campaign. But, unaccountably, they could make little further progress against the valiant Kaye and Hull player-manager Terry Neill.

And after the interval, Hull, spurred in midfield by the powerful work of Ken Knighton, gathered confidence. Only a fractional ifside decision robbed them of a 55th-minute equaliser when Stewart Pearson blasted a 30-yard shot into the Luton net.

POUNCED

There was no argument three minutes later when Pearson cut the ball back and Houghton pounced to drive it home.

And there was more to come from the enlivened Hull side. A mighty clearance by Wealands led to a stampede of the home defence in the 70th minute. Several men missed chance of clearing, and Houghton was on hand again to shoot the winner.

LUTON.—Barber; Ryan (John), Thomson, Anderson, Garner, Slough, Ryan (Jim), Hindson, Fern, Hallom, Aston. Sub: Harfield.

HULL.—Wealands; Banks, Beardsley, Kaye, Neill, Knighton, McGill, Houghton, Pearson, Holme, Butler. Sub: Wilkin-