

Luton 'ghost squad' wins Cup rehearsal

Luton 1 Sunderland 0: by TONY HARDISTY

AS AN exercise in psychology, this so-called F.A. Cup preview was a complete waste of time. Luton won on merit but they had only four reserves against Sunderland's six. Both managers agreed both before and after a match which gave very little value for money that the result has no bearing on next Saturday's sixth-round tie at Roker Park. The unhappy conclusion is that this was a farce. Nobody kidded anybody else in the rival camp.

Next Saturday's high-light promises to be the clash between Sunderland right back Dick Malone and Luton flier John Aston. Neither played.

Another crucial battle will feature Wearside's speed merchant Billy Hughes against Bobby Thomson. Hughes was one of the many missing stars who watched this charade in the sunshine.

What was left was far from entertaining for Luton's best crowd in nearly three months.

Luton were almost always the more progressive outfit with Jim Ryan doing enough on the right to suggest that he could be a match-winner and Derek Hales—withdrawn for Viv Busby 15 minutes from time—strong and mobile enough to have clinched the centre forward spot.

GREAT

Don Shanks got the goal three minutes before the break, when he moved on to a great through ball from Hales to score off Jim Montgomery's hands.

Montgomery, equalling Len Ashurst's club record of 452 League and Cup appearances, saved well from John Ryan and then nearly palmed in a shot from Gordon Hindson.

Graham Horn—no, he won't play next week!—had just one anxious moment in the first half when he clutched young Jimmy Hamilton's close-range flick.

Hales, striving always to be bright and enterprising against the class of Dave Watson, was twice close early in the second period and then Vic Halom shook up his former colleagues just a little with three efforts, the last of which saw the ball hit a post and bounce into Horn's grateful arms.

LUTON.—Horn; Ryan (John), Thomson, Shanks, Faulkner, Goodeve, Ryan (Jim), Anderson, Hales, Hindson, Fern. Sub: Busby.

SUNDERLAND.—Montgomery; Ellison, Guthrie, Ashurst (J), Watson, Young, Lathan, Chambers, Halom, Porterfield, Hamilton. Sub: Bolton.