

Luton win joke match

Luton 1, Sunderland 0:

AS a dress rehearsal for next Saturday's F A Cup quarter-final, this was a masquerade—an exercise in kidology between rival managers, writes JOE CUMMINGS.

The contribution of Luton boss Haslam to a cloak and dagger farce was to produce four new faces in his team. Sunderland's Stokoe topped it. He made six changes.

I suppose it all comes under the heading of tactics but that's no consolation for those who paid expecting to see something special.

What they got was little more than a reserve match. There was a flash of speed and skill from Luton right winger Ryan and the classical defensive qualities of Sunderland's Watson.

Piercing pass

It was all Luton in the first-half. Hales got in a diving header which lifted over the bar and Hindson cracked a shot Montgomery could only parry and had to be scrambled off the line by Guthrie.

The breakthrough Luton had long threatened and thoroughly deserved came three minutes before half time from a piercing pass by Hales.

It put Shanks in the clear and although Montgomery bravely got his hands to the fierce, close-in shot, he couldn't keep it out.

Sunderland improved after the break and showed more attacking flair. There was a flurry of scoring attempts from Halom, who was bought from Luton last month.

Chambers set up the first chance, a right footed drive well held by Horn.

Then came a left footer that flew across the face of the goal and narrowly outside the far post.

Halom's best effort was a flick header that hit the inside of the post and, luckily for Luton, bounced straight into Horn's arms.