

LUTON HIT BY ROKER EMOTION

By TOM JACK

Sunderland 2, Luton 0

THE soccer fire of Wearside was richly fuelled by Sunderland's storming display which consumed poor Luton.

Luton, conquerors of Newcastle two rounds ago, went north with the more than modest confidence of leaping a less frightening obstacle into the semi-final of the F.A. Cup.

But Sunderland, the taste for old glories returning with their Cup victory over Manchester City and revelling in the thunder of support from most in the packed Roker Park crowd of 54,000, roared into sustained attack from the start.

Yet so desperately tenacious was the Southerners defence that it was not until 10 minutes into the second half that local joy could be unalloyed. Then Watson raced in on a ball from a Kerr corner to put an unstoppably header into the corner of the net.

Luton, who had been nothing but a packed defence, placed their hopes on the stirring and delicate talents of Aston and Jim Ryan. But this hope was soon snuffed out. Sunderland, driven by the thrusting Horswill and Pitt, brushed Luton aside still more ruthlessly than they had done in the first half.

But the finishing blow was overdue in the 78th minute when a ball headed on by Halom was beautifully hooked home by Guthrie Sunderland's left-back.

Two more could easily have come before the end. Luton, swamped into anonymity but the rush of swelling emotion and skills at Roker Park, could find their heroes only in defence.

John Ryan, Thomson and Shanks could be picked out for awards for gallantry. Their forwards were swept out of the game, and Aston, the former Manchester United winger who is normally one of their most gifted players, was noticed only when he niggled at the rugged but fair tackling of Malone.

For Bob Stokoe, the manager, whose arrival has raised visions of old glories at Roker, the day was particularly sweet. He may now think that he is almost as good as the ship-building town rates him.

Sunderland: Montgomery; Malone, Guthrie; Horswill, Watson, Pitt, Kerr, Hughes, Halom, Porterfield, Tueart. Sub.: Young.

Luton: Barner; John Ryan, Thomson; Shanks, Ganner, Moore; Jim Ryan, Anderson, Busby, Hindson, Aston. Sub.: Hales.

Referee: Jack Taylor (Wolverhampton).