

NEW BOY SIMS IS TOWN HERO

NEWCOMER John Sims celebrated his debut before the Kenilworth Road fans with a winning goal and a great performance for Luton.

Sims, who is 21, slammed home a fine 42nd minute goal after John Aston had opened Town's account early on. Wednesday hit back through Joicey.

Sims joined the Hatters on a month's trial from Derby County earlier this week.

Also making his first full appearance this season for the senior side was midfield player Rod Fern who has been turning in some outstanding performances for the reserves.

There was an early cheer for Fern when he got his first touch of the ball in the opening minutes. He sent John Aston clear down the right and the winger caused panic in the Wednesday defence with a cross which

Luton 2 Sheffield Wednesday 1
By LAWRIE MORRISON

goalkeeper Springett was unable to take cleanly.

Play swung to the other end where Wednesday forced a corner, Craig took the kick and Prendergast just cleared the bar with his header.

A long through ball from Thomson gave Sims his first run at goal. But he was quickly pulled up for offside.

In the sixth minute Ken Knighton had the first clear cut chance for Wednesday when a defensive error let him in on the left. But a shot from about 15 yards was well over the top.

Scrambled

Luton had the ball in the net after ten minutes through Fern. He "scored" from close range after neat work in the six-yard box by Aston, but referee Crabb disallowed it, his reasons were not apparent.

West was again looking very impressive in midfield for the Town and he sent Aston

clear down the left wing, but his shot was blocked.

Luton took the lead however in the 15th minute with a goal from ASTON. Another cross from the left was struck first time from the edge of the box by Peter Anderson. The ball was deflected up in the air and as it bobbed around the six-yard box, Aston scrambled it in.

Wednesday hit back with a long-range shot from Craig but Horn was able to watch it sail harmlessly over the bar.

It was Craig again who caused some consternation in the home defence when he let fly from 25 yards. This time Horn had more to worry about as the ball dipped viciously, just clearing the bar.

Fern, showing a lot of his old flair, appeared on the left wing in the 28th minute and set up a chance for Sims. But the ball was whisked off the Luton new omer's feet before he could get a shot in.

Luton went off the boil a little after this and it was

Wednesday's turn to exert some pressure near goal. But although their approach work was neat, their finishing was poor.

There was a scare for Luton in the 40th minute when skipper Thomson was fouled by a late tackle in the middle of the field and trainer Reg Game was called on for the first time. But after a minute or two's treatment Thomson was back into the game.

Ragged

Some of the visiting side's tackling became over-robust and Craig was spoken to by the referee after a particularly nasty foul on Ryan.

The free kick taken near the halfway line by Thomson found Anderson but his header lacked direction and the ball sailed to safety into the terraces.

Luton's passing became more and more ragged as the interval approached and the crowd sent up some mild barracking.

Fern invoked a tremendous roar from the crowd when he set off for a run at goal midway inside the Wednesday half. His final shot touched the corner of the net but the ball cruelly slithered inches wide of the left-hand post.

New boy SIMS put Luton further ahead in the 42nd minute. A free kick was quickly worked down the right to Aston and his centre was met first time by Sims from 18 yards, giving Springett no chance in the Sheffield goal.

Aston was bobbing up all over the place and it was from another of his crosses — this time from the left — that set up a chance for Jimmy Ryan. But his header was a couple of yards wide.

A lucky rebound gave Wednesday a goal right on half time. The ball cannoned off a defender straight to the Wednesday striker JOICEY and he had the simple job of scoring from six yards.

Straight from the restart Kent was booked by the referee after a vicious tackle on Sims.

HT: 2 1

Luton went straight into the attack when the second half started and Aston was within a whisker of finding a third goal.

The ball ricocheted to him a



Sims celebrates his goal

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Horn, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jimmy Ryan, Fern, Sims, West, Aston. Sub: Cruse.

WEDNESDAY: Springett, Rodrigues, Shaw, Thompson, Kent, Craig, Henderson, Knighton, Joicey, Prendergast, Potts. Sub: Eustace.

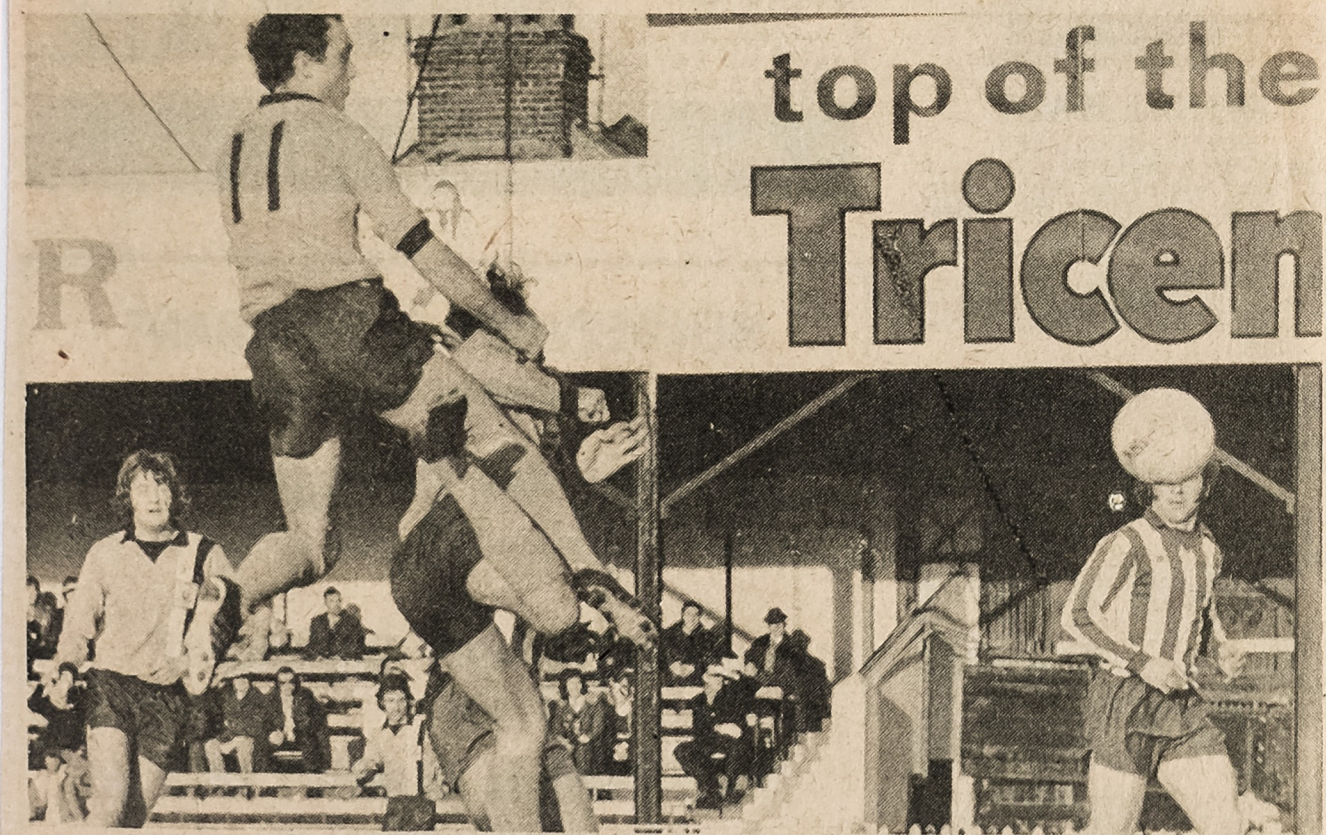
Referee: Mr R. C. Crabb (Exeter)

JOHN ASTON (Luton) 15 mins

JOHN SIMS (Luton) 42min

JOICEY (Wednesday) 45 mins

Attendance 9,543



Ryan nets but the referee ruled the goal out

few yards from goal but just as he was about to shoot, Craig blasted the ball to safety.

Three minutes later Springett did well to hold on to a fierce drive from Thomson. The Luton full-back had worked his way in from the by-line after having been put clear down the left by West.

Then, at the other end, his opposite number Horn caused a few hearts to flutter in the crowd when he dropped a long-range effort from full-back Shaw. Fortunately he pounced on the ball before Wednesday could take advantage of his lapse.

The visitors kept up a flurry of pressure and a long-range shot from Knighton was only just outside the angle of the bar and upright.

A jinking run down the

right by Fern which earned the Town a corner brought chants of "Rodney, Rodney" from the crowd.

Fern responded by getting up to head Aston's corner towards the top left-hand corner of the net, but Springett just managed to palm it away for another corner.

Luton were really beginning to force the pace again and West followed Fern's effort with a 25-yard shot which was too high to trouble Springett.

The Luton defence were having a fairly easy time of it but Faulkner earned warm applause from the crowd when he headed behind a dangerous cross from former Scottish winger Henderson's cross.

Sims almost scored a second goal in the 67th minute. He rose beautifully to a cross from West and his header just failed to elude Springett's clutching fingers.

The ball bobbed tantalisingly around the goal-line for a few seconds before it was hacked to safety.

Soon afterwards Luton had a lucky let-off when Joicey fastened on to a cross from the right and shot against the Luton bar with Horn well beaten. The ball rebounded to safety.

Horn was forced to make his best save of the match in the 79th minute. Henderson beat a couple of Luton defenders and shot well from the edge of the box but Horn flung himself sideways to turn the ball to safety.

Down at the other end Fern very nearly earned himself a goal when he robbed full back Shaw in the 18-yard box and tried to round Springett. But the keeper just managed to get one hand to the ball and thwart the move.