

LUTON HOLD ON TO HATS^{74/75} IN MAC'S STORM ATTACK

TALENTED defender Irving Nattrass was missing from the Newcastle team at Luton this afternoon. Nattrass was taken ill during the night and his place at right back was taken by David Craig.

The match featured the return of Newcastle striker Malcolm Macdonald to his former club ground. Macdonald was made Newcastle captain for the day and it was his first visit to Kenilworth Road since his transfer four years ago.

NEWCASTLE

The line-up

NEWCASTLE	LUTON
1 McFaul	1 Horn
2 Craig	2 J. Ryan
3 Kennedy	3 Buckley
4 Smith	4 Anderson
5 Keeley	5 Faulkner
6 Clark	6 P. Futch
7 Barrowclough	7 J. Ryan (J)
8 Nulty	8 Husband
9 Macdonald	9 R. Futch
10 Burns	10 West
11 T. Craig	11 Aston
12 Gibb	12 Spiring

Referee: Mr R. Perkin (Stafford).

he diverted a West shot for a corner. Luton were getting more on top as the half progressed.

Half-time:

Luton 0; Newcastle 0

CONCEDE

Luton, gambling on all-out attack, won a corner in the first minute of the second half, but Ian McFaul had little trouble in clearing Jim Ryan's flag-kick.

In complete contrast to the

first half Newcastle were now being pressed back. They escaped punishment because Luton's forwards lacked bite.

David Craig had to concede a corner to stop John Aston who had the crowd roaring with a thrilling 30-yard run down the left wing. Newcastle weren't as impressive as in the first half and their defence must have heaved a sigh of relief when a bad pass by Jim Ryan spoilt a very promising Luton move.

OFFSIDE

But there was no reprieve for Newcastle when RON FUTCHER put Luton in front after 57 minutes. A Steve Buckley free-kick from the left was only half cleared and Futch gave McFaul no hope with a stinging left-foot drive.

Luton could have gone further in front shortly afterwards but referee Mr Perkin pulled up Futch for offside just as he was about bang the ball into the net.

Newcastle nearly equalised

with their first dangerous attack of the second half. A Barrowclough run and centre had Luton's defence in a terrible tangle and Faulkner only just managed to clear his line as Burns and Nulty came storming in.

At the other end McFaul made a splendid save from the feet of West.

FINAL

LUTON TOWN 1
NEWCASTLE UTD 0
Est. attendance: 19,000.

Newcastle, trying to capitalise on last week's home win against Middlesbrough, could have scored twice in the first five minutes against a Luton team struggling for First Division survival.

Macdonald caught the Luton defence square by racing on to a long forward pass, but Luton's left half Paul Futch took the ball off his toes just as he was shaping to shoot. The resultant corner was cleared by Luton's defence.

Two minutes later Macdonald almost scored again. Luton goalkeeper Horn was very slow coming off his line and Macdonald's left-foot drive from a narrow angle was cleared from near the goal line by John Faulkner.

BROKEN UP

Luton were finding it very hard to settle into their stride while Newcastle looked most dangerous whenever they attacked. Macdonald with his great thrust and speed, was causing real bother to Luton's shakey defence, and he was getting good support from Burns and Geoff Nulty.

Luton's first dangerous move of the game came when midfielder Alan West had a sight of the goal, but his shot was charged down by centre half Glen Keeley.

Luton pressed forward again, but a right wing attack was well broken up by Alan Kennedy.

SCARE

Newcastle were containing Luton's attack fairly easily thanks mainly to the cool and resourceful play of centre half Keeley and United had another wonderful chance to go ahead after 19 minutes.

Macdonald, playing his heart out against his old club, won a tussle with Paul Futch near Luton's byeline and moved dangerously towards goal. His centre was much too strong and high for Newcastle's on-coming forwards and Luton breathed again.

United kept on the attack and winger Stewart Barrowclough was the next player to show his skill. He tricked Ryan out on the left flank, but his cross was too close to goalkeeper Graham Horn and the Luton goalkeeper was able to clear.

The Geordies were given their first real scare on the half-hour. A centre by John Ryan flashed across their goal, but neither Husband nor Aston could take advantage.

Then Tommy Craig saved an almost certain goal when