

Luton on

way to survival

By TREVOR WILLIAMSON

Luton ... 1 Newcastle ... 0

SINCE Ron Futchcr joined his brother, Paul, in the team on Boxing Day, Luton have been beaten only once in the League, collecting seven points out of 42. And their march towards First Division survival is well under way.

Yet, for the first half-an-hour at Kenilworth Road against injury-hit Newcastle, they looked as if they were going to suffer a hiding. Led by their former striker, Macdonald, Newcastle battered away at the Luton defence

But it was not Macdonald's day. Appointed captain for a brisk, entertaining match, he strove mightily to score, but his efforts were blocked or went over the top.

Then, with Paul Futchcr blocking the way to the middle and Buckley's curbing the efforts of Barrowclough, Luton gained a grip in the latter stages of the opening half, which continued through to the second period.

Kennedy deflection

Just 12 minutes into the second half, Luton, inspired by West, struck. Buckley swung over a free-kick and Ron Futchcr looped the ball into the goal with the aid of a deflection by the unlucky Kennedy

Newcastle had by this time lost their dominance in mid-field. They had seemed to overcome the difficulty of having Nattrass and Howard cry off with domestic problems, and Clark many times blunted the Luton attack with timely clearances and tackles.

Luton.—Horn; Ryan (John), Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Futchcr (P), Ryan (Jim), Husband, Futchcr (R), West, Aston.

Newcastle. — McFaul; Craig (D), Kennedy, Smith, Keeley, Clark, Barrowclough, Nulty, Macdonald, Burns, Craig (T).