

NEW BOY BOOSTS AMBITIOUS LUTON

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

Luton Town 2

Blackburn Rovers 0

WHEN Luton's leading goalscorer Jimmy Husband limped home with a poisoned knee yesterday afternoon, a new career was born. On-loan David Geddis, who had played just five minutes League football before, was thrown in for his first match.

He produced a performance of such promise that when Ipswich ask for him back in four weeks time, Luton must try to wangle some sort of permanent deal out of the League leaders.

For it would be criminal for this talented teenager to go back to reserve football at Portman Road.

Last night he scored Luton's first goal, missed a couple more and should have won a penalty when he hounded after a Ron Futcher pass and was sent sprawling in the box by Blackburn centre-half Derek Fazackerley.

Afterwards he said: "It was great. I should have scored a hat-trick. I must learn to cool it a bit on the ball."

He showed pace, control, imagination, confidence and a good line in courage when it came to going in where it hurts. He looks a fine prospect.



David Geddis roars in to head his first League goal at Kenilworth Road last night

Luton chalked up their fifth successive victory, and with nine of their last 16 matches at home, they must be favourites among the outsiders for promotion.

Four of their next five matches are at Kenilworth Road, interrupted only by a short trip to Fulham a week on Saturday.

Justice

Last night's fixture was the one abandoned in the 49th minute on January 3 — when Luton were winning 2-0. On that occasion Luton felt they had been cheated when the Blackburn players skidded and slipped and fell with such exaggeration that Nottingham referee Brian Martin stopped it.

And last night Rovers manager Jim Smith was big enough to admit: "I guess it was poetic justice."

The fact is that Luton deserved their win last night as much as they deserved their lead on the January ice. It was not as fluid a performance as they have shown on occasions in recent weeks, but it was methodical and hard-working.

Luton's man of the match was John Aston, whose well-balanced skills on both wings and probing crosses finally accounted for the Rovers.

Geddis showed an early relish for his service, and as early as the seventh minute was just beaten to a centre by keeper Bradshaw. Four minutes later he was felled by Fazackerley, but Mr Martin refused Luton a penalty.

The 18-year-old newcomer began to excite the Luton fans with his enthusiasm and on-the-ball arrogance, and Luton were so on top that it was just a matter of patience before the goals came.

Fuccillo had a good shot blocked and was unlucky with the follow-up. A Faulkner mistake almost let in Blackburn's Taylor, but he was wide, and Chambers hit back with a well-struck free-kick which almost beat Bradshaw.

Price had one stopped, Geddis missed a sitter when he headed an Aston cross wide from right to front, and Luton began to despair of ever scoring.

Then the new lad stepped in, charging on to another Aston centre, and powering it past Bradshaw. A linesman and the Rovers defence thought Aston was offside when he received the ball, but they were wrong.

The referee had a word with the flagman and allowed the goal. Afterwards he said: "I knew a Luton player was offside but he was not interfering with play."

In the second half Geddis had another header saved from an Aston free-kick and Fuccillo had another effort saved before Ron Futcher sewed it up with a rather fortunate goal.

Once again Aston put over the cross, Geddis missed it and

Futcher's shot looked to have been covered by Bradshaw before it struck full-back Wood and was deflected into the net.

Bobby Svarc had Rovers best chance, but Aleksic made a fine save, and Ron Futcher should have put it beyond doubt when he broke away on his own, but failed to beat the advancing Bradshaw.

Luton's work-rate from midfield was the turning point. It was from here they won the ball and fed the forwards.

There were several mistakes in defence during the evening, but in the long run both Faulkner and Paul Futcher were cool enough to recover. Full-backs Buckley and Price both did well, and again Aleksic looked as safe as houses in goal.

If Luton keep pegging away like this there is a great chance of promotion to the First Division again. The prize is so great it's well worth the effort.

LUTON TOWN: Aleksic, Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Geddis, West, Ron Futcher, Fuccillo, Aston. Sub: Hill.

BLACKBURN ROVERS: Bradshaw, Hird, Wood, Metcalfe, Fazackerley, Keeley, Taykor, Svarc, Byrom (Mitchell ht), Parkes, Waddington.

REFEREE: Mr Brian Martin

ATTENDANCE: 9,044.

GOALS: Geddis (Luton) 35mins. Ron Futcher (Luton) 65 mins.