

Time now to take Luton seriously

by PHILIP OSBORNE

Luton 2 Wolves 0

LUTON'S taste for adventure stretched their remarkable win sequence to eight games with a double over Wolves.

And no wonder manager Harry Haslam declared: "Perhaps people will now believe we are serious promotion challengers."

But the way Wolves flopped after an encouraging opening raised doubts about whether they have the temperament to sustain their own promotion bid.

Repeated defensive mistakes set the Molineux men arguing among themselves. And three Wolves players were booked for dissent—Alan Sunderland, John McAlle and Willie Carr.

Yet the goals which ended Wolves 16-match unbeaten run came at a time when they looked well in command.

With Kenny Hibbitt and Steve Daley sparking a series of attacks, many teams might have concentrated on defence against the League's leading scorers.

But Luton were always ready to send men surging forward at the slightest opportunity. And a fine break by left-back Steve Buckley brought them the lead in the 36th minute.

His cross was headed down by Ron Futchner and Jimmy Husband shot his 12th goal of the season.

SWIFT BREAK

A minute later Luton went two up. Again a swift break from the back forced an opening from which the impressive Lil Fuccillo lobbed over the head of Wolves goalkeeper Garry Pierce.

Up to then Luton had relied heavily on the calm defensive work of Paul Futchner, and enjoyed several escapes.

Sunderland shot straight at 'keeper Milija Aleksic from six yards; John Richards failed when the merest deflection to a Daley ball would have brought a goal; and Hibbitt headed over from two yards.

But once Luton had gone ahead, Wolves' composure disintegrated.

The introduction of Bobby Gould for Martin Patching in the 66th minute injected late life into the Wolves attack. Richards netted in the 78th minute but referee Ray Lewis disallowed it for an infringement during a hectic goal-mouth scrummage.

Wolves boss Sammy Chung accepted defeat with more control than his men had shown. "I've no complaints about anything," he said.

Luton boss Haslam enthused: "This was a magnificent result particularly in view of the way Wolves opened.

"We've a lot more skill than many people seem to realise and this is why we had the confidence to come forward whenever the chances arose."