

EVEN BILL COULDN'T FIND AN EXCUSE

78/79

AFTER a punchless performance by United, manager Bill McGarry had no excuses to offer.

He might have used a 36-minute injury to full-back Peter Kelly that necessitated a reshuffle of his team for their poor display.

Kelly damaged the ligaments in his left knee, was stretchered off, and will be out for the next two or three games.

But the manager said, "I'm not using that as an excuse. I'm very dis-

LUTON TOWN 2,
NEWCASTLE UNITED 0.
(Half-time—1-0).

Scorers:—Stein (23 min.),
Turner (84).

appointed. We only got what we deserved. We had spells at the start of each half when we did well, but over all Luton killed us in mid-field."

The injury to Kelly came in a tackle on Luton's striker, Brian Stein, who shot the home side in front from a headed pass by Bob Hatton.

Substitute Mark McGhee, who went into the attack, had the chance to level matters just before half-time. His fierce header beat Luton 'keeper, Dave Lawson, but was headed off the line by Alan West.

As Newcastle had a brief spell of pressure at the start of the second half, Peter Withe was presented with a free header by the near post but he glanced the ball wide.

It was an expensive miss because Luton came roaring back

and made the points certain late on.

Centre half Chris Turner headed his first goal for the club from a free kick by Lil Fuccillo.

Newcastle were strong in defence where John Brownlie was outstanding in his battle with Luton's fast winger, David Moss.

But their midfield and attack were eclipsed by the aggressive all-round display by Luton.

Newcastle Utd. — Hardwick; Kelly (McGhee), Brownlie, Walker, Barton, Blackley, Suggett, Mitchell, Withe, Hibbitt, Connolly
Referee—M. Sinclair, Guildford