

ROSTRON ROBS LUTON

by TONY HARDISTY
Sunderland 1 Luton 0

THIS as Luton's eleventh away defeat of the season but my how they scared the promotion hopefuls.

For 70 minutes Sunderland, losing left back Joe Bolton with a groin strain in the fifth minute, huffed and puffed without looking like breaking down a resolute defence.

Forbes Phillipson-Masters, in his first match on loan from Southampton, never flinched as Sunderland piled on the pressure. But just when it seemed that Luton would grab a share of the spoils Wilf Rostron scored to soothe Sunderland's shattered nerves.

Mick Docherty and Wayne Entwistle combined to free Mick Buckley whose cross was touched on by Gordon Chisholm. The ball fell for Rostron to beat Jake Findlay from 12 yards and you could reach out and touch the relief

Luton, with Alan Birchenall very prominent in the first half did a very good containing job although they had lucky escapes in the ninth and 20th minutes.

In the first instance Alan Brown, substitute for Bolton, chested down a great ball from Buckley but shot wide with only Findlay to beat.

And 11 minutes later Kirk Stephens cleared off the line from Brown with Findlay stranded.

On the half-hour Findlay took four minutes to recover from a kick on the head from Brown, but Luton were obviously well satisfied with their first-half performance. Two minutes after the restart Brian Stein headed in from Ricky Hill's cross but was offside.