

SAINTS WIN BY A HEAD

SAINTS 2, LUTON 1

ENGLAND SQUAD men Steve Williams and Mark Wright combined to send Saints along the road to victory against Luton Town at the Dell today.

Wright headed home a free kick from the impressive Williams after 32 minutes, David Armstrong headed in another just before half time and Luton were thankful to escape heavier punishment with their goal bearing a charmed life in the second half.

SCOREBOARD

SAINTS

Wright 32 mins.
Armstrong 44 mins.

LUTON

Donaghy 89 mins.
Attendance: 17,947.
Bookings: Holmes, Dennis.

By BOB BRUNSKELL

Teams:

SAINTS	LUTON
Shilton 1	Sealey
Mills 2	Stephens
Dennis 3	Thomas
Williams 4	Horton
Agboola 5	Elliott
Wright 6	Donaghy
Holmes 7	Hill
Moran 8	Stein
Worthington 9	Walsh
D. Armstrong 10	Daniel
Wallace 11	Nwajiobi
Puckett 12	Goodyear

K. Cooper (Ponypridd).

Peter Shilton, Reuben Agboola and David Armstrong shook off minor knocks, enabling manager Lawrie McMenemy to put out an unchanged team for the sixth match in a row.

Luton demoted centre-half Clive Goodyear to the substitutes' bench as they reverted to a more attacking line-up.

Mal Donaghy, the Northern Ireland international switched from midfield to defence with Nigerian striker Emeka Nwajiobi returning to the side.

Saints, watched by England manager Bobby Robson for the third time in eight days, were quickly set back on their heels.

England squad man Paul Walsh went on a powerful run before being fouled by Armstrong ten yards outside the penalty area.

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SAVED — Luton 'keeper Sealey keeps his head under pressure.

Second-half bid fails for Luton

Continued from front page

Stein cracked the free kick just past Shilton's left-hand post.

Saints countered with Holmes playing a tantalising cross towards Wallace at the far post.

Wallace failed to make contact with his head, but the ball went for a corner off a Luton defender.

Mills rolled the kick short to Armstrong and his cross flashed across the face of goal without anyone getting a touch.

Walsh and Stein combined on the edge of the Saints box to give Nwajiobi a shooting chance but he screwed his effort well off target.

Saints had a real chance in the sixth minute when a touch by Moran sent Wallace clean through on the right.

Sealey came dashing off his line to save at Wallace's feet.

Elliott, injured in the build-up, required extensive treatment before being able to carry on.

An impudent flick by Worthington sent Wallace on another run. This time he swung the ball low to the far post, but Sealey laid claim to the ball as Moran hustled in.

There was better from the home side when Wallace cleverly evaded two defenders and squared the ball to Holmes. But the Saints defender let Luton off the hook by miscuing his shot.

Sealey was quick to read the danger when Worthington flicked on a cross from Wallace. The pass was intended for Moran, but the Luton goalkeeper's instant dash from his line foiled the Saints striker.

Saints wasted a couple of crosses before Williams put Luton to the sword with a surging run down the left.

He found Moran who



UNDER PRESSURE — Saints' Danny Wallace races to beat Sealey.

came inside before trying a shot which was blocked by Thomas.

Two energetic sides were switching play from end to end but without finding a breakthrough.

Wallace again got himself into a good position on the edge of the Luton box only to waste his pass. Worthington found himself some space on the right to get in a cross which was cleared only as far as Moran. With his back to goal Moran tried an overhead kick which dropped just past the goal.

Referee Cooper's decisions were riling the crowd and he had them groaning again when awarding a corner after a cross from Stein had dropped behind the goal.

There was perhaps an element of justice when Daniel screwed the flag kick out of play.

Neither goalkeeper had much in the way of shots to save but Sealey had to react quickly to stop an

effort from Moran at the near post.

Sealey's next action was to pick the ball out of the back of the net. In the 32nd minute Saints won a free-kick on the right edge of the box for an infringement on Mills. Williams curled it under the bar and WRIGHT, at the back post, headed firmly past the Luton goalkeeper.

It was Wright's first goal of the season and it invited a sharp retort from the visitors.

Following a scramble in the Saints penalty area Nwajiobi stabbed the ball into the empty net but the effort was disallowed for a foul on Shilton.

Holmes was booked in the 36th minute for a foul on Hill. But there was nothing illegal about a superb tackle from Agboola which stopped a dangerous run from Daniel.

Luton put together one of their better attacks a minute before half-time

when Stein ran on to Hills' pass to test Shilton with a firm shot.

In the last minute of the first half Armstrong stretched Saints' lead.

Sealey punched a centre from Dennis to Mills on the right and the former England captain returned the ball perfectly for Armstrong to thump a header high into the left hand corner. Half-time:

Saints.....	2
Luton.....	0

Wallace sparked a lively start to the second half by forcing his way to the byline and clipping back a centre which Sealey controlled well under his crossbar.

There were more problems for Luton when Moran cut loose on the left and swept over a cross which Mitchell just managed to divert away from Wallace at the far post.

It was Stein who forced the visitors back into the game. He had Saints backpedalling with a lively run only to hit a low, indecisive shot straight at Shilton.

Luton maintained the offensive and after a build-up down the left, Horton drove over the bar from 20 yards.

Saints threatened to unlock Luton's defence with Worthington deftly heading on a pass from Williams.

It enabled Moran to test Sealey with a real power-driver but Moran's efforts were unnecessary.

An offside flag had already gone up against him.

But it was just the prelude to a torrid time for the Luton defence. Williams' lob sent Worthington through and after brilliantly side-stepping a defender he lashed in a shot which Sealey scrambled away with his legs.

And the ball ran only as far as Wallace whose angled shot was turned off the line by Elliott.

Nwajiobi posed an isolated threat for Luton with a run down the right, but he hoisted his cross straight into the grateful hands of Shilton.

Back came Saints and Wallace, fed skillfully by Worthington, cut into the right and drove a fierce shot just wide.

Luton's goal continued to bear a charmed life. Williams sent Moran through on the left and he drilled a fierce shot just inches past Sealey's right-hand post.

Worthington was desperately unlucky not to give Saints a third goal in the 64th minute, with a sharp rising shot which had the beating of Sealey but which came back off the bar.

Luton sent on substitute Goodyear for Nwajiobi in the 66th minute.

Luton survived another let off in the 83rd minute when Thomas, not far off the line, blocked a pile driver from Williams.

In the last minute Dennis suffered Saints' second booking for a foul on Horton.

From the resultant free kick taken by Horton Luton pulled one back. Goodyear flicked the ball on for Donaghy to beat Shilton with a close range header.