

Point eludes Town in late rally

By **BRIAN SWAIN**

A LATE recovery nearly saved a point for Luton Town against a Sheffield Wednesday team whose pace and running power was almost frightening to see.

Varadi missed two acceptable chances in the first 16 minutes, while the Town's best opening at the other end vanished when Moss was tackled out of possession after a good run and cross by Hilaire, and when Steve Elliott got onto Ricky Hill's through pass but shot wide of the far post.

Martin Hodge tipped a crisp drive by Hilaire over the bar and gathered a hard shot by Paul Elliott after a corner, but Lee Chapman showed the finishing touch that mattered.

Sterland overlapped down the right to help create an opening and Chapman poked in his fifth goal of the season off the inside of a post in the 35th minute.



Seven minutes after the interval Blair blazed down Wednesday's right wing beating Frank Bunn as he cut inside and, although the cross was scrambled partly clear, defender Mark Lyons was unmarked to hook in the second goal.

Wednesday were ruffled only on rare occasions, and even enforced early substitution made no difference to their pattern. Luckless Gavin Oliver lasted only two minutes on his First Division debut before being carried off with a broken nose.

The Town had done as much attacking as Wednesday without looking as likely to find opening close to goal, but the visitors were rattled by a late fight-back.

Garry Parker was sent on to replace Moss after 61 minutes, and he added a new dimension to the Town's play.

The virtues of good passing were re-asserted and with Wednesday falling back to protect their lead, Ricky Hill and Parker started to make inroads into their defence.

Frank Bunn got further forward, and at long last the Town mounted consistent pressure. Parker, Hill and Stein all had shots charged down by a massed defence in one raid, and the Town finally made the breakthrough in the 78th minute.

Stein won possession, released Bunn and the midfielder — cum-striker smashed in his fourth goal of the season on an afternoon when he might have had a hat-trick if all his shots had been as accurate.

The goal set up a grand-stand finish. Wednesday had yielded the initiative, the Town were at last looking more confident, and a sweet passing move in the last two minutes almost brought an equaliser.

LUTON TOWN 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

Half-time: 0-1

TOWN: Dibble, Thomas, Donaghy, Paul Elliott, Turner, Hill, Bunn, Moss (Parker 61 mins), Hilaire, Steve Elliott, Stein.

WEDNESDAY: Hodge, Sterland, Oliver (Worthington 2 mins), Smith, Lyons, Ryan, Blair, Shelton, Marwood, Varadi, Chapman.

THE GOALS: Lee Chapman and Mick Lyons for Wednesday, 35 and 52 minutes; Frank Bunn for the Town, 78 minutes.

ATTENDANCE: 10,285 -1,700 below last season's average and 2,000 below the gate the last time Sheffield Wednesday came to Luton, to a Second Division match in September 1981.

REFEREE: John Moules, Essex — given no problems and caused none.