

Sad Luton

LUTON slipped up badly in front of England manager Bobby Robson. They lost 3—0 and to be perfectly honest they escaped lightly in a game largely dominated by a Sunderland side which is growing in confidence and stature and which has now lost only one of its last 11 League and Milk Cup games.

Luton went down for two reasons. First some slack defensive work, plus a lack of control in midfield, gave Sunderland plenty of the ball to mount almost continuous pressure on their goal. Secondly, when they did have scoring chances Luton completely failed to take any of them.

The nearest they came to scoring throughout the entire match was when home defender Gordon Chisholm nearly turned the ball into his own net.

Ran away

Ironically it was Chisholm who had set Sunderland on the road to victory with a magnificent goal in the 15th minute. A cross by Peter Daniel was headed down by Rodger Wylde and Shaun Elliott chested the ball forward. But it ran away from him to Chisholm who gleefully hammered it into the net.

When Sunderland playing brilliant football torepeatedly open up the Luton defence, young Paul Atkinson had a shot cleared off the line by Mitchell Thomas and Wylde had another effort brilliantly saved by Jake Findlay.

On top of that Howard Gayle — what a magnificent match

he had — shot just over the bar and there were frequent efforts scrambled away by Luton's defenders.

Thomas, who had an unhappy match, brought down in the 53rd minute after an Atkinson shot had been half saved by Findlay. Wylde hammered the ball into the roof of the net from the penalty spot.

Sunderland's third goal came in the 76th minute and again Gayle had a hand in it. It was his shot which Findlay could only parry to Pickering, who drove the ball into the net from an acute angle.

Luton's only near miss in the second half again came from a Sunderland player. This time it was Pickering who

Sunderland 3 Luton 0 : by IAN HOLMAN

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headed against the bar to give the home crowd a nasty fright.

Luton brought on Tim Breacker for Garry Parker in the 62nd minute but it made no difference to Sunderland's domination. It was to be their biggest victory of the season, but at least give credit to Luton for effort.

They clearly did not travel all the way north just to defend, but they were out-classed on the day by a much better side.

SUNDERLAND. — Turner; Daniel, Pickering, Berry, Chisholm, Elliott, Gayle, Wylde, Atkinson, Proctor, Hodgson. Sub: West.

LUTON. — Findlay; Thomas, Turner, Elliott P, North, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Elliott S, Bunn, Hillaire. Sub: Breacker.