

Whiteside broadside

Man Utd 2, Luton 0

MANCHESTER UNITED, the most highly-paid side in British football, coughed, spluttered and, after a mediocre performance, emerged winners by two clear goals. Shoestring Luton were their equals and could easily have reversed the score line, writes William Keenan. 84/85

The most dramatic moment of the game came when Robson proved he was worth every penny of the £200,000 a year United are reputed to be paying him. He came into the penalty area like a one-man charge of the Light Brigade and, with a diving header, put the ball just over the bar.

In the process he collided with Donaghy and both players went down. Robson seemed unconscious at this stage but after about five minutes he got to his feet and played until half-time. But he was found to be suffering from concussion and Stapleton came on as substitute at the start of the second half.

Luton, though, opened up yet another gap in United's so-called defence and Bunn caught the ball on the half volley and crashed it against the far angle of the bar with Bailey beaten. Had this gone in it could have been a completely different story.

Instead, Hughes rounded Luton 'keeper' Dibble, just kept the ball from going for a goal kick and chipped for Whiteside to score.

Then Luton lost Dibble. With no one near him, the 'keeper' went to catch a centre, but fell, tore knee ligaments and could be out for a long time. Donaghy took over, but was also beaten by Whiteside six minutes from time.