

Fearless Luton slay the tigers

Wimbledon 0, Luton 1

LUTON refused to be intimidated by Wimbledon's rugged tactics, which many teams have fallen victim to this season, writes Steve Bottomley.

The Hatters' first league visit to Plough Lane was crowned with Mark Stein's first goal of the season, which broke the deadlock in the 58th minute.

Earlier, Wimbledon had put Luton under pressure with the bustling John Fashanu looking dangerous.

A scrappy first half brought only a handful of chances, the best falling to Wimbledon's Lawrie Sanchez, sent off last week for kicking out at Graham Roberts of Spurs.

He did not have as much power in his boots yesterday. A cross from Winterburn found Sanchez unmarked in front of goal, but his weak side-foot shot

went straight at Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey.

The high spot of the afternoon came when Luton's Tim Breacker pumped a high cross to the far post. Mike Newell climbed above the defence to head down in the crowded area and, although Stein mistimed his shot the ball bobbed into the corner of the net.

Wimbledon fought back in determined fashion. The tigerish Alan Cork almost levelled in the 70th minute, with a powerful close-range header, but a wall of four Luton defenders blocked the ball on the line.

Luton almost made it 2-0 in the dying minutes, when a 35-yard drive from new signing Darron McDonough crashed against the bar.

Mark Stein's older brother Brian hobbled off in the second half, but Luton had control and weren't going to let the points slip.