

Champions checked as attack fizzles out

ALMOST UNBELIEVABLY, Liverpool have lost two League matches in succession. They came to Kenilworth Road prejudiced against Luton's artificial pitch and, with key players injured, left with only themselves to blame. They should have scored three times in the first half.

Without Hansen and having to reorganise themselves further when Gillespie was carried off midway through the first half, Liverpool were unsure of themselves in defence.

The champions' attack, though, continues to give more cause for concern. Rush did not

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Liverpool	0

Ivo Tennant

Luton Town: Sealey; Johnson, Dreyer, Williams, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Oldfield (Wegerle, 67), Harford, Hill, Black.

Liverpool: Hooper; Gillespie (Ablett, 26), Venison, Nicol, Whelan, Molby, Beardsley, Houghton, Rush, Barnes, Macdonald.

Referee: J E Martin (Alton).

have a chance; Barnes had three and squandered them all.

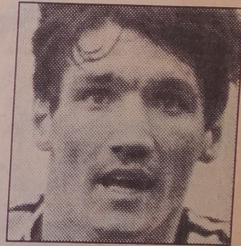
Luton's goal came in the third minute, Harford rising majestically above Gillespie and heading home. It was, surprisingly, his first goal of the season. Even

more surprising was that Luton did not play to his aerial strength thereafter.

To be fair to Barnes, he did not appear to be fully fit after missing five matches through a hamstring injury. Two minutes after Luton scored, he volleyed over from six yards out.

Five minutes later Barnes mis-hit a shot after Beardsley, who was full of neat touches, had laid the ball on. He had another first-half shot blocked by Sealey.

In between these incidents, Gillespie was carried off with knee trouble following a dubious challenge by Foster. Ablett came on, the defence was switched around and Molby



Mick Harford... broke his duck against champions

pumped the ball ever forward, but to no avail.

There were no chances of note in the second half. Even so, Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool's manager, felt it to be their best performance on this pitch.

It was Luton's first home victory of the season. That they had only two chances will not concern them.

Chris Davies on the FL Centenary Final — Manchester U v Arsenal — in tomorrow's Daily Telegraph
