

Rush a poor imitation of his old self

89/90

By Christopher Davies

Luton Town 0 Liverpool 0

THE speed, control, anticipation and positional awareness that have become Ian Rush's hallmark were evident during this lacklustre match, but the finishing power that made him the most respected striker in Britain was again missing.

Rush should have had a hat-trick and, at the very least, one goal after creating 10 reasonable chances at Kenilworth Road but once again left the field without the one statistic associated with the player.

Before the season kicked off he spent some time at Lilleshall to regain the fitness that a virus had drained from him last season. There is no question that Rush is as sharp as ever but he is missing opportunities he is expected to accept with ease.

John Aldridge, who scored 31 goals last season, seems less sure of a place in the Liverpool side yet after he came on as substitute only the woodwork denied him a last-minute winner. It is almost as if Rush is lacking confidence, trying too hard instead of doing things by instinct. But few would doubt the goals will return for this prolific scorer.

Liverpool dominated, restricting Luton to just a couple of chances, yet for the second time in a week they could only draw a match they ought to have won.

Ray Harford, Luton's manager, said Wegerle, their talented striker, did not produce the level of performance of the opening two games although Danish international Elstrup made an encouraging debut in English football as a substitute.

Luton Town: Chamberlain; Breacker, Dreyer, Williams (Elstrup 72), McDonough, Beaumont, Kennedy (Harvey 72), Wegerle, Wilson, Preece, Black.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar; Hysen, Burrows, Nicol, Whelan, Hansen, Beardsley (Aldridge 74), Gillespie, Rush, Barnes, McMahon.

Referee: A Gunn (South Chailey)