

Ex-missile maker Dowie bang on target for Luton

IAN Dowie celebrated his first full game for Luton Town with the only goal in a frenetic encounter against Derby County.

It was destined to be the former missile engineer Dowie's day. The £25,000 signing from Hendon last December admitted he had struggled to settle down at Luton.

But Dowie, 24, and rejected by Southampton as a 16-year-old, looked sharp from the start as he locked horns with former England centre-half Mark Wright and his moment of glory came just after half-time.

Black received a peach of a ball on the left wing from Wilson and his cross to the far post seemed to hang in mid-air. Then Dowie rose above Sage to nod the ball wide of Shilton.

Dowie, who spent a month on loan at Fulham, got his Luton chance against Millwall

Luton	1
Derby	0

Geoff Young

last weekend when Wegerle was injured.

Dowie set up Elstrup's equaliser for Luton that day and Ray Harford, the Luton manager said: "It was nice to see him score the goal today. He is getting better and better as his confidence grows."

Luton were worthy of the lead Dowie gave them, though the first half had been a scrappy affair with few chances for the front runners. Both sides tended to play good football but the final pass was too often wasted.

The plastic of Kenilworth Road makes for fast open football—but, at the same time, shows up poor play more than does a boggy turf.

Derby looked slightly better

than Luton before the break with Goddard and McMinn shining up front.

But Dowie, well served by Black and the industrious Kennedy, always looked the more likely to break the deadlock.

Dowie had the ball past Shilton in the 17th minute but the referee disallowed the goal for a Kennedy infringement.

Elstrup came close to taking Luton into a half-time lead when a smart back-heel from a Black cross.

After the break, Luton became nervous and Derby began to dictate play. But that is when the home defence came into their own.

Leading them was Johnson, making his first full appearance of the season. He kept the skilful Saunders in check.

Luton Town: Chamberlain; Breaker, Dreyer, Wilson, Johnson, Beaumont, Williams, Dowie, Elstrup, Kennedy, Black (Preece 71).

Derby County: Shilton; Sage, Forsyth, Williams, Wright, Blades, McMinn, Saunders, Goddard, Hebbard, Micklewhite.