

Luton still wait

Sheff Wed 1 Luton 1

LUTON are still searching for their first away win for a year, but they will rarely have a better chance of ending the spell.

With only minutes to go, striker Iain Dowie gained possession just six yards from the Wednesday goal.

After controlling the ball, he beat one defender but, in trying to place his shot, sent the ball just wide of the far post.

It would have been Luton's first away win since they beat Derby last December but, on the run of play, it would have been unjust.

Luton, already without six regulars, were further weakened when manager Ray Harford decided not to play striker Roy Wegerle, who completes his £1 million move to Queens Park Rangers tomorrow.

The Luton defence looked ponderous, and it seemed only a matter of time before Wednesday's two attackers David Hirst and Dalian Atkinson would score.

It took David Hirst just 17

minutes to set up Wednesday's goal — immediately after he had seen a fierce shot hit the Luton crossbar and rebound into the penalty area.

Hirst regained control and his half volley looped into the net off the body of defender John Dreyer, who was credited with an own goal.

Wednesday dominated the rest of the first-half but failed to score again and they paid the penalty in the 65th minute, shortly after Luton's Marvin Johnson had been taken off on a stretcher following a clash with Atkinson.

Steve Williams crossed and Julian James, in his first senior appearance of the season, beat goalkeeper Kevin Pressman with a well-placed header.

It was the 19-year-old's first goal for the club in only his second League match.

SHEFF WED: Pressman, Nillson, King, Palmer, Shirtliff, Pearson (w'drn 89, sub Whitton) Sheridan, Hirst, Atkinson, Worthington.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breaker, Harvey Wilson, Johnson (inj 54, sub Cooke), Dreyer, Williams, James, Dowie, Elstrup, Preece.
Referee: R Hart.