

Charlton show rare confidence

By Brendan Gallagher

Charlton 2

Luton..... 0

BELEAGUERED Charlton claimed their first League win since Nov 4 against a Luton side reduced to 10 men after the dismissal of Mick Kennedy in the 63rd minute.

Kennedy, booked in the first half for a trip on Mortimer, was sent off for a recklessly high tackle on Peake, his second dismissal of the season.

Jones, after shooting narrowly wide in the second minute, gave a confident Charlton the lead 10 minutes later. Mortimer's tantalising through-ball bounced up invitingly on the edge of the penalty area and Jones bravely beat Chamberlain to secure the crucial touch.

In a similar incident five minutes later, Jones's unsettling aggression was less acceptable and his crude challenge on Chamberlain earned a stern lecture from Mr Gifford.

Earlier Luton, with one away victory in the last 12 months, had the ball in the net after Kurt Nogan touched home Wilson's low cross, but the young striker was ruled off-side. Luton's best effort came from a speculative free-kick from Preece.

A free-kick at the other end from Walsh was a more worthy effort but narrowly missed the upright as Charlton sought to rectify their obvious shortcomings in front of goal.

Williams, whose excellence highlights the mediocrity of lesser colleagues, was a constant threat.

Williams, though, squandered a golden opportunity after the break when James lost possession.

After Kennedy's departure, Charlton clinched their long-awaited victory with a delightful chip from the deserving Walsh after good work from Lee.

Charlton Athletic: Bolder; Humphrey, Minto, Peake, McLaughlin, Caton, Lee, Williams, Jones, Walsh, Mortimer.

Luton Town: Chamberlain; Breacker, Harvey, Kennedy, James, Dreyer, Wilson, Nogan, Dowie, Preece, Black.

Referee: R B Gifford (Mid Glamorgan).