

Millwall crash to super Black

Luton 2 Millwall 1

by John Morgan

MILLWALL'S domination of a scrappy first-half came to nothing as Luton made the most of a storming finish to snatch three valuable points.

Mick McCarthy, the £500,000 valued defender on loan from Lyon, unluckily marked his debut with an own-goal when he turned the ball into the net after goalkeeper Keith Branagan failed to collect a corner from David Preece.

Luton went further ahead and made certain of the points when Kinglsey Black hammered home a splendid 30-yarder in the 76th minute.

Millwall immediately brought on Les Briley for Wesley Reid, and 30 seconds later, Briley pulled a goal back by turning in Malcolm Allen's centre.

But it was a case of too little, too late.

Earlier in the match David Thompson was desperately unlucky when he failed to reach a centre from Iain Dawes following an Alan McLeary free-kick.

Luton replied with a splendid run up the left by Black, but his centre was headed yards wide by Paul Gray.

Midway through the half Millwall fluffed a marvelous chance.

Paul Goddard was fouled just outside the penalty-area, but Terry Hurlock's sideways touch was much

too short and was hammered away before Goddard could shoot.

Reid broke through the middle and worked into a fine scoring position, but was foiled by Luton goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain, who was down swiftly to smother the shot at the foot of his left-hand post.

Preece did a great deal of tidying up in Luton's mid-field and he rifled in a 35-yarder that almost deceived Branagan.

He followed that with a free-kick which beat everyone in the Millwall penalty-area, but flashed just wide.

Gray was unlucky when he raced on to a Black centre and hurled himself at the ball. He missed completely, but the double somersault which followed was Olympic class.

The McCarthy own-goal followed the first corner of the match.

Allen, Millwall's £400,000 signing from Norwich, collected a yellow card soon after the restart and then very nearly scored.

He made a dainty run onto the Luton goal, beating three defenders on the way and then struck a sweet left-footer only inches wide.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Harvey, Kennedy, James, Dreyer, Wilson, Gray (w'drn 75, sub Rees), Dowie, Preece, Black.

MILLWALL: Branagan, Stevens, Dawes, McCarthy, Thompson, McLeary, Reid (w'drn 76, sub Briley), Hurlock, Allen, Goddard, Stephenson (w'drn 67, sub Sheringham).
Ref. K. Hackett (Yorks).