

Luton's valiant battlers

Luton 2 Arsenal 0

by John Morgan

GALLANT, battling Luton gave firm warning that they are not going down without a fight as they out-ran, out-played and overwhelmed Arsenal to serve up one of the shock results of the day.

They were down to ten men for the final eight minutes when Danny Wilson was carried off with a damaged calf muscle.

But their determination never flagged, right from the opening minutes.

Jason Rees threatened with a splendid run into the Arsenal penalty-area, but was foiled by a tremendous tackle from Tony Adams.

Arsenal's first worthwhile raid ended with Alan Smith getting in a good header well out of the reach of Alec Chamberlain but just a mite too high.

Paul Merson latched onto a glorious through-ball from Michael Thomas but was judged to be off-side as he rounded the Luton goalkeeper.

Nothing much was coming from the Arsenal midfield and even less from their attack.

And minutes before the interval Luton deservedly scored. Preece pounced on a loose ball, nipped round Adams and laid on the chance for Iain Dowie to put the ball out of the reach of John Lukic.

It was a splendidly taken goal and just reward for a lively Luton attack, superbly prompted by Preece, which made the Arsenal defence look decidedly leaden-footed.

Arsenal, showing more spirit after the re-start, won two early corners but Luton were giving nothing away. They packed their goalmouth leaving the Arsenal forwards no openings at all.

Luton struck again when Tim Breacker, who had a superb game, raced clear up the right, rounded Adams and then got in a low cross hammered home by Kingsley Black.

Arsenal manager George Graham said later: "A lot of teams come here with a lot of fear but what they should come here with is passion. Once Luton scored there was only one team in it."

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, McDonough, Beaumont, James (w'drn 71, sub Johnson), Dreyer, Wilson, Rees, Dowie, Preece, Black (w'drn 67, sub Elstrup).

ARSENAL: Lukic, Dixon, Winterburn, Thomas, Bould, Adams, Davis, O'Leary (w'drn 67, sub Rocastle), Smith, Merson (w'drn 67, sub Hayes), Campbell.

Ref: A. Gunn (Sussex).