

Luton 1
Coventry 0

Charles Whebell

90/91
A GOAL after only two minutes was enough to give Luton maximum points against Coventry at Kenilworth Road and erase the memory of last week's 6-1 drubbing at Queens Park Rangers.

Luton forced a corner on the right which was taken short by Preece to Black, whose cross was met by Dowie. The tall, blond striker got the slightest of touches with his head to deflect the ball past Ogrizovic.

Luton manager Jim Ryan admitted that it was important for his side to find their winning ways again after last week's thrashing and said his players were anxious to prove their ability. "Their attitude in training has been tremendous all week. I didn't need to pick them up," he said.

Blame for the QPR defeat was placed largely on the Luton defenders, but yesterday they looked rock-solid. They allowed Speedie and Drinkell little sight of goal and Coventry manager John Sillett hinted he could make changes for Wednesday night's Rumbelows Cup tie against Bolton.

"Scoring goals has been our problem all season and we lost it again today in the last third of the field," said Mr Sillett.

Dowie, who was unfortunate not to score a hat-trick, revealed that he is playing with a broken toe on his left foot.

"I don't feel the pain when we are winning and when I score," he said. "It does hurt when I take my boot off but it won't keep me out of the team. I will play through the pain."

Coventry's big central defensive pair, McDonald and Kilcline, both struggled on the plastic pitch at Kenilworth Road, and although Mr Sillett did not blame the surface for the defeat, he did add: "I am very glad it is being dug up."

There were bookings for Luton's Elstrup and Breacker and Coventry's Beaumont and McDonald.

Luton: Chamberlain; Breacker, Harvey, Rees, Beaumont, Dreyer, Elstrup (James 86), Preece, Dowie, Hughes, Black.

Coventry: Ogrizovic; Borrows, Edwards (Titterton 55), McDonald, Kilcline, Peake, Gallacher (Livingstone 76), Gynn, Speedie, Drinkell, Smith.

Referee: J Rushden (Stoke).