

Chelsea fall to Luton's old master

90/91

Luton 2 Chelsea 0

by Steve Richards

THERE were so many young players at Kenilworth Road that anyone over 25 might have been forgiven for calling for a walking stick.

Chelsea included seven players of 23 or under but it was Luton's wily 32-year-old Steve Williams who was the master.

Teammate Marvin Johnson chose the wrong day perhaps to describe Williams in the Luton programme as one of his "most difficult opponents" because "his mouth works faster than his feet".

Wasted

Johnson also listed "listening to Steve shouting on the pitch" as one of his hobbies.

It may have been half tongue-in-cheek but Williams was certainly wholly serious when he gave Johnson a mouthful as they walked off at half-time for not supporting him enough a minute earlier when Williams was hugging the ball in a jam.

Generally he was in control of himself in his last appearance before a two-game suspension (for bookings).

Williams was away ahead of all the "kids" in one-touch short passing and also lobbing the ball into the Chelsea penalty area with guile.

Luton were not good enough up front to take advantage but then they scrambled the first goal in the 55th minute when an indirect David Preece free kick confused almost everyone.

Chelsea manager Bobby Campbell explained: "It finally went in off our defender Jason Cundy's head. Pity for him. He played so well again."

For all that he may have missed a few million pounds worth of injured talent, including Andy Townsend and Gordon Durie, Campbell knew that Chelsea should have saved a point.

Chelsea could have been three up at half time if Kerry Dixon, Graham Stuart and Kevin Wilson had been a little luckier with wasted chances.

They just could not believe it when Kingsley Black shot Luton's second seven minutes from time.

LUTON: Chamberlain; Johnson (Inj 82, sub James), Harvey, Williams, McDonough, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Farrell, Rees, Black.

CHELSEA: Beasant, Hall, Le Saux, Lee (w'drn 55, sub McAllister), Cundy, Johnsen, Stuart, Burnstead (w'drn 78, sub Dickens), Dixon, Wilson, Wise.
REFEREE: M.D.Reed (Birmingham).