

Wimbledon rebound off Luton

By John Ley

Wimbledon 2

Luton Town 0

RAY HARFORD, who left Luton a year ago after steering the club to three Wembley cup finals, enjoyed the satisfaction of handing his former players a defeat in the wind and rain of Plough Lane yesterday.

Mr Harford, who joined Wimbledon in February and was confirmed as manager last month, insisted that beating the club that sacked him meant nothing special. He said: "After three defeats it was important to win and the fact that it came against Luton meant little."

Wimbledon, without a victory in their previous five games, were watched by a crowd of 4,521 — the First Division's smallest crowd of the season — but that wasn't too surprising; the corresponding fixture last season was watched by 1,000 fewer, the smallest post-war First Division crowd.

Luton, who have won only twice in their previous 13 League games and are in danger of dropping into the relegation fray this second consecutive season, had plenty of possession but troubled Segers, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, only once.

Wimbledon took the lead in the 44th minute when Fashanu rose in the penalty area to beat Harvey and connect with a Barton corner to head his eighth goal in seven games.

In the second half Wimbledon assumed control of a disappointing game and Luton threatened only when Elstrup beat Phelan on the right, but his cross to Rees was wasted with a poor shot.

Luton included debutant Pembridge for the suspended Williams and although the 20-year-old Welshman fared well, he could not prevent Wimbledon from adding a second goal with six minutes remaining.

McGee, the tiny Irishman, had twice gone close for Wimbledon before Cork, a 69th-minute replacement for the injured Fashanu, put the finishing touch to a fine move when he converted McGee's pass from 15 yards to confirm a deserved victory.

Wimbledon: Segers; Joseph, Phelan, Barton, Blackwell, Curle, McGee, Kruszyński, Fashanu (Cork 69), Scales, Gibson. Sub not used: Sanchez. Goals: Fashanu (44), Cork (84).

Luton: Chamberlain; Johnson (James 69), Harvey, Pembridge, McDonough, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Farrell, Rees (Dowie 74), Black.

Att: 4,521. Referee: K Barrett (Coventry).