

Tim-ber! Cahill fells hollow Town

98/99



SHOOTING: Millwall's Paul Ifill gets his shot in despite the close attentions of Luton's Gavin McGowan

By BLAKE RICHARDSON

MIDFIELDER Tim Cahill scored twice in the first half to keep Millwall on course for promotion from Division Two with their fourth victory in their last five games.

It was their eighth away win of the season and Luton manager Lennie Lawrence, who has seen his team's promotion hopes swept away by five defeats in six games, was full of praise for Millwall.

He was also angry with Luton's atrocious defending in the first half. "An absolute disgrace" he called it, before apologising to the supporters for Luton's poor performance before the interval.

"We were swamped because Millwall outplayed us, outfought us and outbat-

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tered us," he said.

Lawrence had introduced an extra defender in midfield to try to blunt the threat of Millwall's attackers, only to see the plan swept aside by the sharpness of midfielder Cahill.

He struck his first on 17 minutes after being played in by Robbie Ryan and on 38 minutes Luton goalkeeper Ben Roberts failed to hold a shot by Richard Sadlier and Cahill helped himself from the rebound to his 11th goal of the season.

Luton never looked like pulling the game back although for the second half they reverted to a formation with three attackers and they had enough chances to save a point.

"The trouble was they fell to the

wrong men," said Lawrence. "And the fact is that in the first half we put on the worst defensive performance of the whole season."

Luton missed suspended Julian Watts while Millwall were delighted with the delayed debut of Sean Dyche.

Luton's strenuous efforts to get something out of the game were thwarted through poor finishing and good goalkeeping by Tony Warner; his best stops being a close-range block from Liam George and a save to keep out a free-kick by Phil Gray.

And while Millwall had fewer second half chances, they almost snatched another goal after the break with Lucas Neill unleashing a spectacular overhead kick which hit the bar and bounced into the crowd.