

Luton 1 Wycombe 0

By Jez Collins

ONE goal turned out to be enough to secure Luton their first double of the season, as Wycombe had their first taste of defeat this year.

But the fact was that it took Wycombe 61 minutes to deliver their only worthwhile shot at goal – a 20-yarder by Steve Brown which was comfortably saved by Carl Emberson.

Luton grabbed their goal four minutes earlier with Matt Spring capitalising after nimble footwork by Tony Thorpe created a gap in the defence, which had looked very strong until then.

Wycombe relied on the five at the back to close down Luton, and manager Louis Sanchez felt sorry for his team.

Their most effective attacking ploy was a series of long throws by Richard Harris, and Luton boss Joe Kinnear was not too impressed by that.

He said: "We can work very hard. They are a big side but there wasn't much fluency about them. We had worked in training at defending the long throws and we coped with them. There's always a danger that something might fall unkindly for you and the opposition may nick something, but our goalkeeper had almost nothing to do." An unfortunate talking

Matthew Springs^{02/03} to action

point was the performance of Premiership referee Clive Wilks. He dished out five yellow cards in the first 30 minutes and then called on both skippers to calm things down.

The problem, as Sanchez said later, was that the booking seemed to be for fairly innocuous offences and, afterwards, more serious ones went unpunished.

Kinnear's only moan about the ref was that Luton might have had a penalty when Steve Howard complained his shirt had been pulled as he bore down on goal.

The striker earned a booking for a foul on a goalkeeper and unsavoury elements in the Luton crowd screamed abuse at the unfortunate Talia, but he later needed half a dozen stitches in a head wound.

Sanchez said: "I'm disappointed for our lads because they worked very hard and the only difference was that Luton put the ball in the net and we didn't."