

LUTON

CRASH

EASILY MASTERED BY SOUTHEND

Southend Utd. ...3 Luton Town0

SOUTHEND pivot, Turner's mastery of Luton's goalscorer Payne, had a lot to do with this result.

Luton were let down lightly. They were opposed to a sprightly side that swung the ball about in grand fashion and had scoring chances enough to run into double figures.

The Southend forwards all missed badly in the first half apart from strong defensive play by Mackey and Smith.

Occasionally, however, they were unlucky. Once Dolman was yards out of goal when Bird got clean through only to see his hard cross-drive kicked out by Smith, who had fallen back on to the goal line.

Dawes, recently signed by Luton from the Palace, gave McKenzie some trouble in the first half, but although he went close the Southend 'keeper was always well positioned.

Christmas Day injuries necessitated changes in both sides, and Southend experimented with Harris, a young right half from Leamington, who pulled his full weight against Luton's best wing, Stephenson, and Dawes.

It was not until 20 minutes after the interval that Southend succeeded in scoring. Then Lane beat Dolman from a pass from Oswald. Two more followed from Dickenson and Goddard in the closing minutes.

LUTON BACKS WORRIED

By Sea-Dogs of Southend

Southend3 Luton0

SOUTHEND'S team seemed to have weathered Christmas Day much better than had been anticipated, and there were periods in this exciting game of last Saturday when they made rings round Luton.

At various periods the visiting backs were sorely tried, and enjoyed considerable luck in clearing their lines. This was vividly illustrated when Dolman ran out to race Lane for possession and Smith, dropping back into goal, hooked out a hard drive from Bird.

Luton kept out the enemy until 20 minutes after the interval, when Lane—they call him "the Stadium Flyer"—crashed a fine shot past Dolman.

Dickenson, back again at centre-forward, got number two ten minutes from the end after thrilling episodes in the Luton goal, and Goddard, who, because of an injury, was playing on the wing, netted a third. Rich and Dawes tested McKenzie, but Payne was quite subdued by Turner.

Southend: McKenzie; Nelson, Robinson; Harris, Turner, Spelman; Bird, Lane, Dickenson, Goddard, Oswald.

Luton: Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Fellowes, Nelson, Stevens; Rich, Roberts, Payne, Dawes, Stephenson.