

Luton Stagger the "Lions"

By FRANK THOROGOOD

Luton 5

Millwall 0

IT was not so much the defeat of Millwall, but the extent of that defeat, which saddened the countless supporters of the old club. Luton not only beat their rivals for the second time this season without conceding a goal, but in the closing half they became absolute monarchs of the game.

Other teams equally exalted to the rank of Cup semi-finalists have fallen from grace in the League at this period and then returned to their full stature at the critical testing time. And so may it be with Millwall when the Cup drums beat them gaily to Huddersfield.

It is true they lacked David Mangnall, and also Brolly; yet I am bound to admit that some of the members of the team at Luton played a rather lack-lustre game.

Enough, perhaps, to say that the difference between Cup and League form as revealed by Millwall at Luton was the difference between a blazing torch and a rush-light.

Not one of the forwards played up to his reputation. The defence also wavered, although it should be said that the valiant Forsyth, whose zeal no mortal can quench, was thrice in the wars with painful facial injuries.

After watching Luton for the first time this season I can well understand the unanimous contention that the side should have beaten Sunderland on the same ground in a Cup tie. Harmony prevailed in all departments and four of the five goals came in the second half.

King and Smith were cool and steady backs; the wing halves, Finlayson and Fellowes, had a nice understanding with colleagues and the art of Nelson made him look as if he were strolling through the game in the role of a land surveyor.

Stephenson and Roberts, representing the left wing, could have seldom played a better game this season. They were clever and designing in all they did.

Wallbanks, though less cultured in style than Nelson, maintained his part well

against Payne in the opening half; in the closing stages he seemed to lose grip. Burke kept a great goal—a good omen for the Sunderland tie.

Hancock opened the score 15 minutes from the interval, when he rushed up just in time to put the ball on the right side of the post after a pretty left wing movement. The second goal originated with a fast drive from Roberts, whose shot was deflected net-wards by a defender.

A case of handling by Smith, the back, gave Payne his chance with a penalty; Stephenson added a fourth with a rapid shot on the run, and Finlayson scored his first League goal for Luton from over 20 yards range.

In this way Luton made one more splendid bid for promotion and if success is denied it will not be because they do not deserve it. Of the eight remaining games six be it noted are at home.

In conversation with Charles Hewitt, the manager of Millwall, I learned that Mangnall is still worried by an injured thigh. We all hope that the limb will respond to treatment during the interval for Mangnall is the inspiration of the side.

Luton: Coen; King, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hancock, Rich, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Millwall: Burke; Smith, Inns; Day, Wallbanks, Forsyth; Thomas, Burditt, Steele, McCartney, Smith (J R).