

SNAP-SHOT COX K.O.'s LUTON'S TEN MEN

LUTON TOWN 2, ARSENAL 3

Two quick-fire goals scored in as many minutes late in the second half by "Snap-shot" Freddie Cox proved the turning-point of this match, and Arsenal pass into the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup, writes **Doug Wilson**.

But although Arsenal did just about enough to merit their win their display inspired little confidence in a victorious Wembley bid. Neither side did justice to themselves in a game which, while containing some pulsating moments, left much to be desired among the connoisseurs of scientific football.

Arsenal's experiment in fielding Arthur Milton at inside-right failed badly, and Peter Goring at centre-forward was played right out of the game in the first half by Luton's centre-half and captain, Sid Owen. True, Owen injured in a crash with Goring just before the interval, was not nearly so effective in the second half, but until his injury he delighted home supporters with his superb anticipation.

When in the seventh minute a record crowd of more than 28,000 saw Luton outside-left Bert Mitchell evade a Walley Barnes tackle to flash across the ball for centre-forward Moore to score with a well-taken header, pent-up emotions were loosed in thunderous applause.

With the Arsenal decidedly rattled after this, Luton I consider could have won if they had exploited their opportunities. That they did not do so, however, was due mainly to one man, Arsenal's veteran skipper, Joe Mercer.

Joe in his late thirties and the oldest man on the field, refused to panic, and the manner in which he subdued the clever Luton inside-

right Jack Taylor gave Arsenal their match-saving "breather."

After the interval, Arsenal rearranged their forward line. Milton went to the right wing. Cox switched to the left flank with Roper at centre-forward and Goring going to inside-right. Lishman alone maintained his original position at inside-left.

The reshuffle paid, for with Roper shining as a thrustful leader it was no surprise when he put Cox through to equalise with a grand 20 yards drive in the 73rd minute. Two minutes later it was the swift-moving Cox who put the visitors ahead with another unstoppable effort, and Milton netted a third to put the result beyond doubt in the 76th minute.

Luton, however, made a brave effort and can consider themselves unlucky, particularly as they lost their outside-right, Davies, midway through the second half. Davies, whose injury has been diagnosed as a fractured ankle, will, I understand, be lucky if he plays again this season.

Despite this handicap the "ten men" managed to reduce the deficit. Following a goalmouth melee, a penalty was awarded against the Arsenal and from the spot Bert Mitchell made no mistake in the 78th minute.

Moore and Mitchell were the best of the Luton forwards, while in addition to Owen, half-backs Morton and Watkins excelled. Goalkeeper Streten could rarely be faulted.

Luton certainly pass out of this year's Cup without loss of honour, especially as they have been the first team to score against the Arsenal.