

Agile Streten is show-stealer

Luton 3, West Ham 1: By ROBERT BLAIR

THE display of goalkeeping agility by Luton's Bernard Streten was one of the few redeeming features of this game. During a long period in the first half the Hammers were over-running Luton, then pulverising their defence into disintegration, but Streten's alertness, his panther leaps and his fine sense of anticipation defied them.

True, two shots did pass him, but they were stopped on the line by Owen and Jones.

Luton survived when they hardly deserved to and crossed over in the lead, Turner having caught Gregory napping with a low shot after four minutes.

After the interval Luton left-winger Mitchell, racing past his lamed full-back, Wright, crashed the ball home in the 61st minute.

Dixon brought West Ham into the game with a goal four minutes later, but Luton were seldom in danger of losing the lead, and Turner made the issue safe for them 12 minutes from the end.

Neither set of forwards was quick or clever enough to take advantage of glaring weaknesses in both defences, but Luton were slightly more incisive when within shooting

distance and this won them the day.

Without centre-forward Jesse Pye and right-half Bob Morton, however, they lacked that little bit of genius which just before Christmas had brought them to within striking distance of the League leaders.

They were best served by centre-half Sid Owen and inside-right Gordon Turner.

The Hammers had clever wingers in Hooper and Andrews and wing halves in Malcolm and Bing.

● *Christmas Day.*—West Ham 1, Luton 0. The one goal followed a miskick by Owen, Dick getting a goal which hadn't even half a thrill about it. Streten, in the Luton goal, was in international form. Luton forwards were clever in midfield, but in the absence of Pye there was nobody to put on the finishing touch.