

Mem. to Luton—it's a winter game! 54/57

Luton T.0 Manchester U. ...2

IT is no good Luton bleating about the mud, ice, and snow of recent weeks, as they did in their programme, and complaining that the weather is preventing them playing their along-the-carpet Soccer.

Maybe so, but they have just got to adopt their play to the conditions.

Manchester United, showing verve, understanding and surprising slickness on the snow, were worthy winners, and will, I predict, run away with the championship.

Luton certainly did their share of attacking, but in front of goal they never had the bite of their opponents.

Dennis Viollet was United's key man in attack with his long passes to the wings and first-time, down-the-middle pushes to Taylor and Whelan.

Viollet was credited with a goal in the sixth minute, because a shot by Taylor that had goalkeeper Baynham beaten, hit Dennis on the way in.

Luton's Reg Pearce, moved from half-back to the right wing, performed no more than competently, whereas the other winger, Mike Cullen, who switched with Pearce, in the second half, impressed most in the losers' forward line.

Baynham errors

Nobody is quite sure whether Fred Goodwin ranks No. 4 or No. 5 on United's list of wing halves, but the speed, the class, and the concentration of this Lancashire pace bowler admitted of no doubt.

Ron Baynham seems to have lost some of his confidence. He looked to be at fault when the first goal was scored, and although he brought off one great save from a Taylor header, he allowed the ball to slip over his arm when Whelan netted six minutes from time.

This goal, though, was as much Groves's fault as Baynham's, for the inside left made a careless pass back which enabled Whelan to nip in.

Against less formidable opposition Luton could easily have made this their come-back match—a happy event which should not be delayed much longer.

Luton T.—Baynham; Dunne, Jones (L.); Pemberton, Kelly, Shanks; Pearce, Turner, Morton, Groves, Cullen.

Manchester U.—Wood; Greaves, Byrne; Goodwin, Jones, Blanchflower; Berry, Whelan, Taylor, Viollet, Pegg.