

LUTON LEAD THE WAY TO SHEER BOREDOM

IT is almost like preparing an advance obituary on English Soccer to report that Luton and Bolton—who wasted nearly 30,000 man-hours of precious sunshine on Saturday—are this morning respectively ranked No. 2 and No. 3 teams in the country. This, statistics reveal, was only the second goalless draw inflicted on First Division patrons in 76 matches this season.

Luton, who have drawn five of their seven games in maintaining their unbeaten record, seem determined to alter all that.

Their attendance—19,699—was the lowest in their Division. They have also perfected a technique that is almost guaranteed to CUT EVEN THAT GATE BY HALF.

It is as simple as it is soul-destroying.

You pair wing-half Dave Pacey and Sid Owen in a Siamese Soccer-twin act as stopper centre-halves.

The only duel

You then withdraw a natural firebrand inside-forward like Gordon Turner to plug the hole in defence.

The immediate result is that you rarely concede a goal—but even more rarely look like scoring one.

The long-term effect is that

By IAN WOOLDRIDGE

Luton...0 Bolton W...0

RATINGS.—Skill: Luton 6, Bolton 6. Entertainment 4. Sportsmanship 8. Control 9.

your public save their two bobs and stay home to listen to a brass band on the radio. This, on Saturday, could hardly have failed to provide more thrills.

Bolton's Nat Lofthouse, who can usually be relied upon to paralyse any such preconceived plan, was regrettably not playing. Without him the proud holders of the F.A. Cup looked as though they will never get nearer Wembley than Wigan this season.

When their England back Tommy Banks had finally succeeded in shaking off the Luton

right-winger with a series of shuddering charges, the only fascinating duel of the game was over.

Two superb first-half saves by Eddie Hopkinson—first from Allan Brown, then from Jim Adam—almost completed the afternoon's entertainment.

Not quite, however. Luton's David Pacey, unknown last season before Reg Pearce vacated the left-half berth on his departure for Sunderland, was almost immaculate in defence.

The fact that he is required to play as centre-half shadow to Owen—whom he is likely to succeed when Owen quits at the end of the season—should not be held against him by selectors making a last-minute check on Saturday before announcing England's Under-23 team.

Young England NEED a stopper. Luton, it seems, have got so many that they are fast threatening to become the BIGGEST BORES IN BRITISH FOOTBALL.

LUTON: Baynham 8; Dunne 6; Hallett 7; Morton 5; Owen 7; Pacey 8; Bingham 5; Turner 5; Brown 5; Groves 5; Adam 5.

BOLTON: Hopkinson 9; Hartle 7; Banks 7; Stanley 8; Higgins 6; Edwards 6; Birch 4; Stevens 6; Gubbins 5; Parry 5; Holden 6.

REFEREE: P. Brandwood (Kidderminster). **LINESMEN:** D. Lewis (London), A. Mason (West Croydon).