

What will Swindin say?

OH! FOTHERINGHAM, WHAT A NIGHTMARE

By BOB PENNINGTON: Luton 6 Arsenal 3

★ **A**RSENAL'S hopes and Jim Fotheringham's heart were trampled de under the mud at Luton after Highbury's blackest Boxing Day.

Fotheringham, 6ft. 4in. Scot, was given this make-or-break first League char of the season because manager George Swindin had been unable to sign a replacement off-form Bill Dodgin.

Birmingham's £30,000 price-tag in Young England centre half Trevor Smith was too high.

Another club asked almost £20,000 for a player Swindin had never seen. So that left transfer-listed Fotheringham—the likeable lad who has felt bitterly neglected under the Swindin regime.

Sadly, I sat watching his 90-minute nightmare, playing probably his worst-ever game when he wanted so desperately to play his best.

But Swindin knows now he can't wait any longer for Swansea's Mel Charles. Meantime, it's Dodgin back again for today's return at Highbury.

'DOCH' BOOKED

So simple to ascribe this six-goal slam as Fotheringham's flop. But this was the poorest Arsenal half-back line I have seen.

Skipper Tommy Docherty ended a miserable match by having his game taken after a flare-up with Mr. K. Stokes, of Newark, one of the most puzzling referees of this season.

Only Vic Groves showed fire and form up front.

Len Julians, Arsenal's Christmas capture from Leyton Orient, accepted a gift goal in five minutes, but had little chance to prove his First Division ability.

Luton, robbed by the unfitness of centre-forward Bob Morton and inside-right Gordon Turner, proved that method counts. They used the ball intelligently with long, sweeping passes.

Brilliant Billy Bingham, classy George Cummins, and stand-in leader Tony Gregory were a perpetual menace.

THE GOALS

GOAL LOG: 4 min. Jimmy Adam (1-0), 5 min. Len Julians (1-1), 15 min. Allan Brown (2-1), 48 min. Bingham (3-1), 50 min. Dennis Evans (penalty, 3-2), 56 min. Gregory (4-2), 59 min. Bingham (5-2), 69 min. Brown (6-2), 77 min. Bloomfield (6-3).

Luton's one lament—right-back Seamus Dunne injured a toe and is out for the return game. Syd Owen will also rest.

Arsenal are likely to play John Petts at right-half with either Evans or Billy McCulloch making his League debut at left back.

Luton 6 Arsenal 3
RATINGS.—Skill: Luton 9 Arsenal 6. Entertainment 9. Sportsmanship 7. Control 7.

IF George Swindin, Arsenal's manager, had needed to justify his scathing statements about Arsenal players the players certainly gave him some good material at Luton.

Had it not been for Jack Kelsey, in his international form, Luton forwards could have created a cricket score.

Although Billy Bingham beat him twice early in the second half, they were equally good shots—if not better—that Kelsey saved from him.

Lively forwards

Neither Len Wills nor Dennis Evans offered anything worth calling resistance to the lively Luton forwards, and in the thick mud Tony Gregory, Luton's young reserve centre-forward, gave Jim Fotheringham a nightmare of a match.

It was the work of this young forward which led to the first two goals by Jim Adam and Allan Brown.

In between those was one by Len Julians, in his debut for Arsenal.

GOALS.—Luton: Adam (3min), Brown (15, 67), Bingham (47, 59), Gregory (56). Arsenal: Julians (5), Evans (pen., 50), Bloomfield (76).

LUTON: Bingham 8; Dunne 8; Hawkes 7; Groves (J) 8; Owen 8; Pacey 7; Bingham 9; Brown 6; Gregory 8; Cummins 8; Adam 8.

ARSENAL: Kelsey 9; Wills 7; Evans 5; Ward 7; Fotheringham 5; Docherty 7; Clayton 8; Groves (V) 6; Julians 5; Bloomfield 7; Henderson 5.