

# ARGYLE OFF TARGET —SO LUTON ESCAPE

Plymouth Argyle 1 Luton 1 : by DOUGLAS HIRD

**P**LYMOUTH threw away their chance of consolidating their position among the top boys of the Second Division. And they have only the poor form of their forwards, who shot all around Luton 'keeper Ron Baynham when the ball should have been in the back of the net at least half a dozen times, to blame.

Gilt-edged chances were wasted by Kirby, McAnearney, Carter, and Wright, and these four made the 21,000 crowd change their cheers for success to groans of amazed disappointment.

Many of the Argyle misses were unbelievable and Luton took heart after they had been the underdogs in the first half and in a storming second-half performance almost snatched a late victory.

During a furious onslaught midway through the first half the Luton goal had a series of lucky escapes, and their defence frequently panicked as they tried hard to stop the Argyle forwards charging goalwards.

There was little doubt that Plymouth were on top in the first half, but sound tackling by full-backs Daniel and Dunne kept the Argyle forwards at bay and the Plymouth side just could not score.

Luton certainly showed more purpose in the second half and began to take the honours.

But, when they were on target, Brown and Turner found that goal-keeper Geoff Barnsley could deal with anything that came his way.

Energetic Plymouth centre-forward Kirby headed a great goal in the 61st minute to give his side the lead after Imlach had brought down Wyatt.

From the free-kick centre half Fincham put the ball over the heads of the Luton defenders and Kirby had got a great opportunist goal.

But within five minutes Brown had repeated the act at the other end to head Luton on equal terms.

This time it was McBride who got the ball high in the Argyle penalty area, and with the home defence flat-footed and Barnsley caught napping, Brown got a simple goal.

If Luton want to make a quick return to the First Division they will have to improve 100 per cent on this performance.

Argyle fans, with dreams of their team getting the Second Division honours this season, will have only nightmares if their forwards continue to ruin goal-scoring chances in the future with so little accuracy.