

BRAMWELL SHUTS OUT MATTHEWS

61/62

LUTON SCRAPE DRAW

Luton 0 Stoke 0

Depth in defence and almost frenzied packing of their penalty area earned Stoke an unexpected point in a match that was more notable for its dourness and outbreaks of bad temper than for good football.

One would have thought that with such talented ball players as Matthews, Thompson and Mudie in their forward line Stoke would have paid more attention to attack. For 20 minutes or so they played some neat football which lacked the final punch and then turned their attention fully to defence.

As a result Luton had a large percentage of the play but could never overcome the problem of finding a gap through the crowded penalty area. What they needed urgently was a constructive inside forward with the ability to hold the ball and switch the point of attack.

Little Support

Turner tried hard to remedy this deficiency but received little support. When Luton did shoot they found O'Neill in brilliant form and he cut out high centres remarkably well. Luton were as strong as Stoke in defence and the result was a stalemate which never looked like ending.

The presence of Matthews pulled in Luton's biggest Saturday crowd of the season, but against close covering by Bramwell he did little and his display was disappointing. Rarely did he try one of his old-time bewildering runs