

Matthews is flop

Luton 0, Stoke 0: By STAN HALSEY

ANOTHER turnstile triumph for Stan Matthews at Luton yesterday. Anticipation of ninety minutes of Matthews's magic boosted Luton's gate to 15,000.

Unfortunately, those extra fans were disappointed if they expected to see veteran Stan command the play.

What little football there was came from Luton. They were the better side in one

of the most mediocre games I've seen for a long time.

And there was little Matthews brilliance to brighten this dull match.

Fifteen minutes went by before Matthews even kicked the ball. And not till near the end did we see flashes of the old skill.

I have not seen Matthews for some time. And on this performance I would have preferred to remember him in his heyday.

The only stirring moment of the first half came when Luton launched a powerful onslaught in the thirty-second minute.

Shot and clearance, rebound and ricochet had the ball bouncing crazily all over the Stoke goalmouth until a Pacey drive was well saved by keeper O'Neill.

A series of petty fouls further detracted from the entertainment value of this game. They ended in the referee booking Stoke centre half Andrew and Luton right winger Wald.

"Stoke's style spoiled our footballing efforts," said Luton manager Sam Bartram. He was right. Stoke played with the desperation of a side that must count every point.

But Stoke also revealed some Luton lapses. The need, for instance, of more balanced and constructive play, linking the half backs and the forward line.

LUTON.—Standen 5; McNally 5, Bramwell 6; Pacey 5, ★COPE 7, Groves 5; Walden 5, Ashworth 5, Turner 6, McKemie 5, Legate 5.

STOKE.—O'Neill 6; Asprey 5, Allen 5; Howitt 5, ★ANDREWS 7, Skeets 5; Matthews 5, Mudie 5, Bullock 5, Thompson 5, Ratcliffe 5.

Referee: H. Horner (Coventry) 5.



Out comes the Stoke goalkeeper to collect this pass back, just beating Luton inside-right Ashworth to the ball.