



Lesser men, big triumph

By MAXWELL WALTER

Luton1 Sunderland ...2

TWO men, neither great names, nor of high valuation, have placed Sunderland back on the threshold of Division One.

And such is football's irony that this pair did it in fractions of seconds out of all the weary 3,780 minutes of the season's promotion ordeal.

First it was Martin Harvey, deputy for England's Stan Anderson. From Hooper's 71st-minute free-kick he shot with inspired aim and control through massed defenders into astounded Standen's goal.

Then, only five minutes later, it was Jimmy Montgomery's moment of triumph as he saved the extra point so spectacularly won.

The young goalkeeper, who has doubled in stature since his first uneasy game in Wakeham's place six weeks ago, met and parried Turner's penalty kick with the undesparring certainty of a veteran.

Contrast

Split seconds of salvation, indeed—but no more than justice. While Orient and Argyle were losing at home, Sunderland were proving with only their fourth away win that they have the spirit and power demanded for their last four critical games.

And that they are as worthy of the top company as Chelsea are of leaving it. There could scarcely be a more pointed contrast in standard: Luton rummaging, scrambling, bumbling, fiddling; Sunderland striking at breakneck pace, always outwitting, outrunning, outkicking, outworking.

For Luton, always promising and frequently disappointing, problems are acute.

The greatest trouble is attack incoherence. Pacey's 7th-minute goal was a half-chance fluke belying the actual balance of power.

Overfield scored Sunderland's first goal in the 50th minute.

Luton: Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Clarke, Turner, Ashworth, McKechnie, Fleming.

Sunderland: Montgomery; Irwin, Ashurst; Harvey, Rooks, McNab; Hooper, Herd, Clough, McPheat, Overfield.