

LUTON DROP POINTS, SHARE BLAME FOR BORING GAME

Swansea Town 1 Luton 0: by BRYN RICHARDS

MEL NURSE'S transfer and a couple of other factors such as Keith Todd, Swansea reserves' top goal-getter replacing Ken Morgan at outside left, roused pre-match speculation among Swansea's fans.

But fancy forecasts turned to plain boredom, relieved only in the last 20 minutes by the Swans flapping more energetically and scoring the only goal.

It came in the 77th minute with a neat header by outside-right Eddie Thomas, who nodded in a perfect corner from Barrie Jones.

It came too as a badly needed face-lift to the dreariest Vetch Field display for some time.

Luton shared the blame in some measure, matching Swansea's unhappy aptitude for doing the wrong things and repeating glaring faults. No wonder the crowd uttered groans of despair throughout the first half and for most of the second.

Swansea's main weakness lay in the middle—Nurse was so obviously missed although Brian Purcell tried hard—and Luton often suffered because left winger Harry Walden failed to master the ball.

Luton's marksmanship was as poor as Swansea's, Jimmy Fleming and Tom McKechnie being prominent among those who missed good chances.

But the visitors, and certainly Swansea, had every reason to

respect goalkeeper Jim Standen's performance. He saved shot after shot during Swansea's unexpected burst of activity in the closing stages from Todd, Williams, Johnson, Webster, and Saunders, and confidently handled many earlier drives that were on target but lacked punch.

Dreary as the afternoon was, it was shattering for Roy Saunders. In the 55th minute he messed up a glorious chance to put Swansea ahead. Running through and leaving Standen behind him, Luton's empty goal loomed up. He stumbled, finger-tipped the ground, didn't see referee N. N. Hough poise his whistle, regained his balance, and with time to spare shot into the outside of the net.

Disappointed as he was, he crashed back into the game within seconds to slam a close shot that Standen grabbed at face level.

Little was seen of Herbie Williams or Colin Webster, who often came off second best in clashes with Turner and Pacey.