

YES, LUTON MUST BUY SOME BACKING FOR RON DAVIES

Luton 2 Bury 1: by GRAHAM BUXTON

HERE were teams with weaknesses in the same department — inside-forward. Bury had made an unsuccessful attempt to sign Ken Hale from Newcastle, and Luton's bid for Stuart Leary had failed. The match served to prove how right both clubs would be to go on with the search.

Luton won because they had in 20-year-old Ron Davies the most imaginative and constructive forward on the field. He brilliantly headed them into the lead after 14 minutes.

That was a goal worth its weight in gold. Previously the main danger had come from Bury, who might have taken a substantial lead early on had there been greater steadiness in their finishing.

Twice Bill Calder flashed the ball inches wide, with Ron Baynham helpless, before Gordon Turner raced on to a pass by Harry Walden for the goal that put Luton two up.

From this point Luton should have progressed full of confidence. Instead they grew defensive-minded.

That would have been fatal against a more dangerous attack. Despite the shortcomings of the Bury forwards, Luton gave the impression of hanging on by their finger-nails.

Particularly was this the case after Calder had scored 14 minutes from the end. Then it seemed as if the Lancashire team might rescue a point. But they had not the final punch to round off their approach work.

Of Luton forward Davies, Bury's player-manager Bob Stokoe said afterwards: "He looks a good one!"

Indeed, he does. And he could have looked even better had he received more support.

Almost all he had was from

Harry Walden. Generally Davies was on his own.

Bury impressed in midfield by their cohesion and accurate use of the ball, but they badly need a man in the penalty area to round off their cleverness in midfield.

Two who nearly turned the match in their favour were wing half Brian Turner and Gordon Atherton.

It was the former's work that enabled Bury to score their only goal. He caused a great deal of trouble because of the immobility of Alwyn McGuffie.

Bury look a competent side but are scarcely promotion material at the moment.

Luton look too good to go down if only they can solve their inside-forward problem.

Certainly they tightened their defence by the introduction of Ron Cope at centre half, but Dave Pacey did not quite make the impact expected on his return to left half.

● "I think we've had a raw deal," said Luton chairman Percy Mitchell last night about the move of Stuart Leary to Queen's Park Rangers. "As recently as Friday we were told we were the only club in with a definite offer."

"We had no notification afterwards that Leary was to move elsewhere."