

BLAIN'S PASS BEATS LUTON

Last-minute rally is not enough

By PETER KEELING

Rotherham Utd 2, Luton ... 1

ROTHERHAM ended a run of eight matches without success with a clear-cut win to mark one of the shrewdest soccer deals of the season.

In these days of inflated fees the £6,000 manager Danny Williams paid for Jimmy Blain and the £3,000, plus a player, for John McCole look the biggest bargain since Stoke City secured Stanley Matthews.

Blain added considerable guile, and not a little graft, to the Rotherham forward line. McCole, who has scored 115 goals in four seasons of English football, scored two, and almost added two more.

After Baynham had brilliantly palmed over a fierce Jackson volley, and Kirkman missed violently from five yards, Madden shrewdly pushed McCole the kind of through ball he thrives on. He rounded Cope, raced away from two more defenders, and placed a low shot round Baynham.

WALDEN DANGEROUS

Snap shot

Walden, who was Luton's most dangerous forward, nearly surprised Morritt with a snap shot, but Blain suddenly switched the game dramatically in Rotherham's favour. From a lofty upfield pass he switched the course of play with a quick header and McCole shot through with another low, well-placed shot.

Luton came surprisingly back into the game when Walden scored a goal that probably surprised him as much as Morritt.

Even with this boost Luton lacked the urgency to give Rotherham much cause for worry. This was despite a last, tense goalmouth minute which ended with Madden heading safely away a Morton free-kick,