

LUTON RALLY HALTED BY INJURY

by GRAHAM BUXTON

Luton 1 Oldham 2

PAINFULLY, Luton are learning that nothing goes right for a team in the doldrums. They were dead out of luck in this match, though Oldham looked the more accomplished team.

"I thought we just deserved to win," said manager Les McDowell afterwards, but he sympathised with Luton on their misfortunes. Luton spent the last quarter-hour with only 10 men, their right-winger, Harry Walden, having been led off with a broken collar-bone.

When that happened, Luton were showing a good deal more fighting spirit than in the first half, were level at one-all, and were showing good promise of snatching a winner. Pacey had a goal disallowed.

When Walden left, Oldham's attack, intelligently directed by Bobby Johnstone, took the upper hand.

John Colquhoun, a dangerous inside left, stood amazed as his shot struck the side of a post and rebounded into play, but justice was just about served when Bob Ledger headed the winner, five minutes from the end.

A craftily placed corner by Johnstone did the trick. John Bramwell stood flatfooted as Ledger headed in.

The first half belonged to Oldham, who used the ball with more accuracy and a great deal more fluently. Wing-half Tommy Frizell and George Sivwright secured such midfield domination that Colquhoun, Ledger, and Colin Whitaker had something of a party.

Yet the only goal of the first half came when Luton fell for the oldest trick in the game. Johnstone jumped over the ball in feinting to take a free-kick. Whitaker cracked it, and it flew into the roof of the net off Gordon Fincham's foot.

Gordon Turner levelled matters nine minutes after half-time, and Fincham headed against the bar for Luton.