

FINCHAM BACK PASS CATCHES BAYNHAM OVER THE LINE

Walsall 4 Luton 0: by COLIN MORTON

DON'T write off Luton because of this result for there is a new spirit at Walsall. The home team showed more purpose than hitherto and Luton were soon put out of their stride. It was obvious from the kick-off that Walsall had a completely new approach.

There was fire and enthusiasm in all they did and with wing half-backs Gordon Wills and Granville Palin giving magnificent support the forwards moved with a rhythm never previously achieved this season.

The Luton defenders tried hard but were made to look poor. Only centre-half Gordon Fineham played well.

He managed to subdue to some extent centre-forward Ray Wiggin, but the inside men, Ken Hodgkisson and Graham Matthews, were dynamic and with a little luck Walsall could have at least doubled the score.

Wiggin got the first goal in the 21st minute when he beat Bob Morton to a forward pass by Hodgkisson. Goalkeeper Ron Baynham got his hands to the ball but could not prevent it going into the net. Eight minutes later came Walsall's second. A centre from Trevor Foster was well wide of goal, but Fincham put the ball back to Baynham who, however, was over the line when he held it.

Referee Mr. A. Jones (Liverpool) pointed to the centre immediately but several Luton players protested and he consulted a linesman before confirming his decision.

The Luton attack mounted several promising raids, but each time they faded badly against the tough Walsall defence.

With Walsall centre-half Albert

McPherson almost completely blotting out centre-forward Gordon Turner, Luton's leading goal-scorer for eight seasons, there was little sting left.

Walsall were continually probing the Luton defence which became more ragged than ever as the game wore on and in the 56th minute Hodgkisson put over a centre from which Wiggins headed the third.

Luton were now almost overrun and only desperate action by the defenders kept the score within bounds.

Wills, Wiggin, and Matthews all went very close, but in the 69th-minute came the best goal of the match. Right-winger George Meek drifted to the left and swung a hard centre near to goal, from which Foster headed in with superb judgment.

A few minutes later Meek hit the crossbar with Baynham completely beaten. Walsall's only disappointment was the crowd—3,863, which was the second lowest since the war. But if they can keep up this type of play the crowds will quickly return.