

NO PUNCH IN LUTON'S ATTACK

by ERIC WELDON

Crewe 2 Luton 0

LUTON showed some bright ideas in midfield, but their forwards had neither the guile nor the punch to more than occasionally trouble Crewe goalkeeper Willie Mailey or outwit a watchful defence.

It was a wise move by Crewe when they paid a small fee to Stockport 10 days ago for 19-year-old centre-forward Ian Sandiford.

It was the alert and enterprising Sandiford who set the game alight in the 61st minute by scoring his second goal in successive games.

Until then both sides had struggled, largely without effect, to combat the Arctic conditions which had the ball bobbing about with deceptive bounce and pace and made more than token progress practically impossible.

Everything seemed set for a goalless draw, for although both sides had mobility to a degree they had been able to achieve little of a productive nature.

Then along came Sandiford to completely alter the pattern of the game.

Winning spell

Peter Gowans and Barry Wheatley linked up on the right for Wheatley to flash across a chest-high centre which Sandiford forced bodily over the line.

It was not a classic goal but it was a vital one for Crewe.

And it served to trigger them into a match-winning spell of fast, nimble-footed Soccer which had Luton rocking and was rewarded by a second goal nine minutes later.

Peter Kane stabbed the ball into the penalty box where Wheatley shook off the attentions of Matt Woods and swiftly dispatched a shot into the corner of the net.

Crewe had one let off and that came in the first half when Mailey failed to hold a drive from Whitaker and Marshall raced back to boot the ball off the line.

Considering the tricky conditions occasional skirmishes between the players were almost inevitable and Luton's winger Graham French had his name taken before the interval.