

Luton now a threat

By R. F. D. GREEN

Luton 3, Torquay 2

THE scent of promotion has worked a minor miracle with Luton. They attack from the kick-off, think out moves instead of kicking aimlessly, and refuse to be disheartened by setbacks. This formula worked so successfully that Torquay scarcely mounted a dozen attacks.

Luton's halves had about them the air of superiority, with Moore weaving his way upfield with calm assurance, and Reid cutting off the opposition moves with devastating tackling.

McKenchie, promoted after five months in the reserves, blended well with the fluid forward line, while O'Rourke scored two good goals to bring his tally to 23 in 27 League games.

Favourites

Badly hurt 15 minutes from the end goalkeeper McGuire carried on gamely with his task as the last ditch defender. He left the field to a rousing ovation.

McGuire's spirit and Torquay's basic football skills symbolise why they remain favourites for promotion. Despite the paucity of their attacks, two of them produced cracking goals.

Torquay opened the score in 23 minutes with a beautifully controlled drive by Stubbs into the top corner of the net. But only 30 seconds later O'Rourke broke the stunned silence with the equaliser.

Rioch then caught McGuire flat-footed in the 57th minute to put Luton ahead. In another 11 minutes Whittaker sent in a pass which sent the defence the wrong way, and O'Rourke snapped it up gratefully.

Torquay's Barnes reduced the lead following a disputed free-kick in 79 minutes. But this was just a flash-in-the-pan and Luton ran out worthy winners.

Luton: Tinsley; Ruddick, Jardine; Reid, Woods, Moore; French, McKechie, O'Rourke, Rioch, Whittaker.

Torquay: McGuire; Smith, Bond; Benson, Wyatt, Wolstenholme; Barnes, Kirkman, Stubbs, Spratt, Clarke.