

Header puts paid to Luton

by JACK HEATHER

Darlington 1 Luton 0

OFF - FORM DARLINGTON improved slightly after Bobby Cummings had notched the goal which saved the game from being a complete disaster for 11,000 fans.

Only the constant urging-on from their enthusiastic supporters, plus ground advantage, woke Darlington into realising the need to put some real bite into their efforts to climb into a higher division.

Until that goal came in the 48th minute, the Luton defence, ably marshalled by veteran Matt Woods, had toyed with the home attack. Only twice in the first half did goalkeeper Colin Tinsley have to exert himself to block shots.

Darlington were weakest where they have been so strong of late—on the wings. George McGeachie could make nothing of the fast-tackling Dick Edwards and young Les O'Neill looked at times as if he were suffering from sunstroke.

To be fair, these two got little support from an under-par half-back line that continually ran the ball into troubles.

Golden goal

Darlington's sole hope lay in spearhead Cummings. It was the ex-Newcastle player who grabbed the golden goal that must ensure promotion.

Alan Sproates started the move with a perfect pass to Barry Hutchinson, who swung the ball high across goal from the right wing.

For once Woods was out of position, and Cummings cracked in a great header.

Luton may still be a bit away from promotion, but, for what the thought is worth, they can console themselves with the idea that they cannot possibly play as badly again.