

Luton go down fighting

By C. A. COUGHLIN

Brentford 1, Luton Tn 0

BRENTFORD'S forwards must improve if the side's intention to return to Division Three within a season is to succeed. They missed many chances against a smart, efficient Luton side who matched them throughout for tactics and skill.

Perhaps to their credit, both sides kept striving to emulate World Cup techniques, playing in formation where a player's position was irrelevant provided progress was made goalwards. The copying did not wholly succeed. It broke down in the finishing.

Nevertheless, play was mobile and enterprising and the efforts commendable. A few home supporters who started a slow handclap were quickly silenced by the majority.

Brentford kept the loose defence under full pressure for the first quarter hour, but Luton were unfortunate not to take the lead in the 17th minute. Their best forward, Rioch, hit a 30 yard ground drive in which Brodie saw no obvious danger. But Pleat, unnoticed, nipped in from the right intercepted the ball and was unlucky to see it deflected by Brodie's body.

After 39 minutes Cobb got Brentford's goal. Ross had made a great crossfield run from the left to be fouled by Jardine. From the kick, Higginson in the goalmouth mis-kicked, and the ball went to Cobb who scored from about eight yards.

Many misses

In a second half catalogue of misses by Brentford, Lawther failed to connect a Cobb header, Docherty ran the ball too far to the by-line with Lawther waiting unmarked, Crisp headed over and Hawley shot wide. For Luton, a 25 yard free kick by Whittaker in the 65th minute was the nearest they came to scoring.

Brentford : Brodie ; Hawley, McKenzie; Crisp, Gelson, Scott ; Cobb, Higginson. Docherty, Lawther, Ross.

Luton : Read ; Slough, Jardine; Thomson, Rivers, Moore ; Pleat, Riddick, King. Rioch, Whittaker.

Referee : I. P. Jones (Glamorgan).