

LUTON ARE OFF TARGET

by PETER GILL

Luton 1 Barnsley 1

LUTON'S OWN pitch was their worst enemy yesterday. And the man who said so after this disappointing display was Luton manager Alan Brown.

The sticky surface foiled their attempts to play their usual game, which is to keep the ball moving fast.

At the same time manager Brown admitted that his team had created enough chances to have won comfortably, and that a point was lost through bad finishing.

Chief offenders were David Pleat—who made up for his misses by scoring Luton's equaliser after 65 minutes—and Gordon Riddick, who twice mis-kicked when it looked easier to score.

Luton had a certain amount of bad luck too. Three shots were kicked off the line, and three times appeals for penalties turned down.

Rebounded

Barnsley scored a shock goal in the 11th minute when a clearance by Max Dougan hit Thomas and the ball rebounded into the net.

This was almost the only danger from Barnsley in the first half. But at the other end Luton missed a series of chances by sheer bad shooting.

The pattern of the game was much the same in the second half. Derek Kevan tried desperately to score, and was unlucky not to have a goal allowed when it appeared that the ball had crossed the line.

But the cleverest forward on view was Graham French. More should have come from his work. When Luton at last drew level Wood was taken completely by surprise by Pleat's header.