

Luton force leaders to fight hard

By DENIS LOWE

Stockport ... 1 Luton ... 0

NO Fourth Division team has conceded more goals than Luton. Yet Stockport, now seven points clear at the head of the table, had to work as hard as in any of their 26 matches this season to complete a "double" over a struggling Luton side.

The stern, methodical style which has made Stockport invincible at Edgeley Park made little impression on a defence which has been strengthened by the signing of Dougan.

County's 11th home win was in doubt until Sykes got two scoring chances from the same move in the 60th minute. Swan, the former Oldham goalkeeper, touched a header from Sykes against the bar from Goodwin's cross, but the ball rebounded straight to Sykes, who promptly accepted the second opportunity with a fierce, close-range shot.

Extension justified

Swan, who is on a month's trial with Luton, displayed enough agility and coolness to justify the offer of a longer contract. He made several good saves, particularly from Sykes, Price and East, but had moments of fortune such as when Morrin and Allchurch hit the bar in the closing minutes.

Luton, who are fighting to avoid an application for re-election to the League only eight years after their Cup Final appearance, had industrious performers in Jardine, Dougan and Moore but with defensive demands uppermost, their attack was almost non-existent.

Stockport County.—Mulhearn; Haydock, Goodwin; Stuart Woods, Sykes; Allchurch, Morrin, East, Allen, Price.

Luton Town.—Swan; Thomson, Jardine; Reddick, Dougan, Moore; French, Kevan, Pleat, Rioch, Whittaker.

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL DIVISION IV

STOCKPORT (0) 1 LUTON (0) 0
Sykes —9.555