

Sandiford strikes

CREWE 3, LUTON 1

FIGHTING Luton hit back from a goal down to equalise in the first-half at Crewe last night . . . but within minutes were again behind.

Promotion-seeking Crewe took an early lead when Sandiford collected a loose ball and gave Swan no chance with his shot.

Luton fought back. Leigh vigorously repulsed several nippy raids, while Regan and Matthews in turn failed when Archer laid on passes for them.

Dougan battled hard at centre-half for Luton. He repeatedly made clearances to fight off Crewe.

Sent off

Eventually, Luton's pressure paid off: King broke through to equalise with a flashing drive. Then came a Matthews shocker direct from a corner, to put Crewe back in front.

Lively attacks by Luton in the second half kept the Crewe defence busy for a time and Lowry cleared from under the toes of Rioch.

Crewe failed to round off their attacks and Matthews drove over the bar with only Swan to beat.

But, with about 20 minutes to go, Regan flashed a ball through to Bradshaw, for Crewe's third. Soon afterwards Whittaker was sent off for a foul on Lowry.

Crewe: Hickson 6; Lowry 6, *LEIGH 8; Stott 6, Barnes 7, Gannon 7; Sandiford 6, Archer 7, Regan 5, Bradshaw 6, Matthews 7.

LUTON: Swan 6; Thomson 6, Conboy 5, *DOUGAN 8, Moore 5; Jardine 5, Allen 6; Johnson 7, Rioch 5, Whittaker 6, King 7.

Referee H. Richards (Oldham) 7.