

Swindon foil Luton rally

By **ANDY WILSON**

Swindon 3, Luton 2

SWINDON won only after a terrific second-half battle, when Luton stormed back magnificently. Luton played like condemned men for 45 minutes, but afterwards used long passes intelligently and tackled fiercely.

Rogers scored two and Heath the vital goal for Swindon, but Penman and Smart, the inside-forwards, were the real architects of victory.

Whittaker and Ryan played well on Luton's wings, and Taylor in goal made some superb saves. On a gluepot of a pitch, Luton's deficiencies in defence were obvious. They packed their goal, and played their way out of difficulty with short passes only to watch Smart and Penman push them back again.

Bustled off

Taylor saved magnificently from Smart before Hare bustled Rogers off the ball in the penalty area. Taylor saved the first penalty but it was retaken and he had no chance with Rogers's second. Rogers missed a sitter after Terry made a dream of an opening. He was fortunate to get a second chance when Smart supplied a perfect pass five minutes before half-time, which he could hardly miss.

Fifteen minutes of mud-splashed endeavour had gone before Luton started their successful long passing. Whittaker raced away on the left, lofted a high centre and Allen's header rocketed past Downsborough.

The cheers had hardly died away when Butler brought Moore down in the penalty area and Whittaker equalised.

There was nothing certain about Swindon's defence now. Their confidence oozed away as Whittaker and Ryan surged down the wing.

Luton's rally was in vain. With four minutes left Butler made a great opening and Heath sliced a raking drive low into the left-hand corner of Luton's net.

Swindon: Downsborough; Dawson, Trollope; Butler, Nurse, Harland; Heath, Penman, Terry, Smart, Rogers.

Luton: Taylor; Jardine, Hare; Dougan, Branston, Moore; Whittaker, Slough, Allen, Buxton, Ryan.

Referee: T. J. Hill (Macclesfield).