

LUTON LET SLIP CHANCE OF MOVING UP

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Walsall 2 Luton Town 0

AN off-key Luton tossed away an excellent opportunity of moving into a challenging position in the Third Division when they were convincingly beaten by a vastly improved Walsall side which is rapidly climbing up the table.

With the exception of a bright opening spell, Luton were forced back on to the defensive for much of the game.

Their attack failed to make any impression against a Walsall defence which has now prevented the opposition from scoring in five of their last seven games.

Only some remorseless tackling by Slough prevented Walsall forging ahead in the first half hour. Luton were forced to labour as Walsall gained the ascendancy with some sound midfield work from Baker and Trevis.

Although there was precious little skill from either side Walsall's determination had swung the game in their favour.

This persistence was rewarded in the 35th minute when the experienced Murray, now operating on the right wing, obtained only his second goal of the season with a neat header following a Baker free kick.

With their leading goal-scorer Lewis and Rioch committed to



Murray, who glided the ball past a helpless Davie in the 35th minute.

assisting their overworked defence Luton's attack had precious few opportunities to shine.

The wingers Denton and Whitaker provided isolated problems but they were easily contained by Walsall's rugged rearguard.

Sheffield, who missed an easy opening in the first half, was very disappointing, and was usually kept in tight check by the dominant Jones.

In the closing stages a great deal of the urgency went out of the game and Walsall clinched the match in the 70th minute with an excellent goal from their teenage outside-left, who scored with a spectacular left footed drive on the run which left the helpless Davie flat-footed.

Walsall. — Wesson; Harrison, Harris, Trevis, Jones, Athey, Murray, Baker, Wilson, Bennett, Morris.

Luton. — Davie; Dougan, McDerment, Allen, Slough, Bannister, Denton, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Whittaker.