

LUTON LOOK SHARP

By **DAVID MILLER**

Luton ... 3 Bristol R. ... 0

AS Luton closed up two valuable points on Swindon and Watford at the top of the Third Division last night the bargain hunters closed in on the Bedfordshire club.

For almost a third of the First Division clubs were represented as Luton narrowed the gap in third place behind Swindon to three points—the clubs' targets being, presumably, wing half Slough and forwards Lewis and Rioch.

Lewis, a fine mover on and off the ball, scored the second goal and had several near misses, while Rioch, back in the side after his cartilage operation, was always full of fire and had the Bristol defence crumbling by the finish.

Rovers, clear of relegation but searching for their first win in seven matches, were behind after only 2½ minutes. Barney hit a weak clearance straight to French, who centred to the far post where Sheffield headed down hard past a hesitant Taylor.

Leaden-footed

The visiting defence was again caught leaden-footed after 60 minutes when Sheffield lobbed the ball through the middle. The defenders stood watching as Lewis ran on to beat Taylor, still rooted on his line, and brought his tally for the season to 15 goals.

Earlier Brown had missed an easy chance for Rovers and just after Lewis's goal a shot by Brown hit the post, came out and bounced clear off the back of Davie's head.

But towards the finish Luton were wholly in command. French and Lewis both went close and finally Allen glanced home a superb header from a French corner. Luton looked sharp—but perhaps not quite sharp enough to catch the top pair.

Luton — Davie; Dougan, Bannister, Slough, Branston, Moore, French, Allen, Sheffield, Lewis, Rioch.

Bristol Rovers—Taylor, L.; Jones, R., Parsons, Taylor, S., Lloyd, Williams, Ronaldson, Barney, Jones, W., Brown, Jarman.