

Luton drop vital point

By C. A. COUGHLIN

Luton 2, Mansfield 2

THE joy of Luton's victory in midweek at Reading against their promotion rivals was short-lived for their fans after this disappointing draw against Mansfield.

The point Luton dropped when they deserved both may prove costly in their final efforts to reach Division II.

Ironically, it was a goal by Luton's Ryan after 23 mins that provided them with such a slender lead for the turn-round. From 20 yds the defender hit a hard drive which hit Walker's head, without being deflected, to soar in just under the bar.

After 51 minutes the Mansfield forwards struck and equalised. A short throw-in on the right in the Luton half found Stenson, who crossed first time to the far post where Roberts hooked the ball home to score his 12th goal of the season.

Within a minute Luton regained the lead. Keen crossed a high ball from the right, Brown left his line and failed to connect properly and the ball went on to the unmarked Harrison who calmly netted.

Mansfield, still under pressure, drew level in the 58th minute when Partridge from a cluster of players in the Luton goalmouth converted a free-kick from mid-field.