

COOL LUTON STRENGTHEN CLAIM

By **TREVOR WILLIAMSON**

Luton ... 3 Walsall ... 0

WITH Walsall shorn of the cares of avoiding relegation and Luton showing no trace of nerves on the promotion run in, both sides served up some splendid entertainment in a high-speed evening game at Kenilworth Road.

Three goals before the break made sure of the points for Alec Stock's well-drilled side, who shrugged off their inhibitions of the previous Wednesday, and so jumped to third in the table.

Mike Keen and Alan Slough were the engine room of the side; they ran at full throttle for most of the first half, providing the impetus for Malcolm Macdonald, Viv Busby, Graham French and John Collins to harass the Walsall rearguard.

And how well they did it. Macdonald was in top form. He had a part in the first two and headed the third goal from a French centre. Busby, in eight minutes, headed the first in copybook fashion and Collins hooked home the second.

Starling injured

Luton looked, in the second half, as if they would overwhelm Walsall, who apart from the odd rasping drive by Taylor, never looked likely to worry the home side.

But then tragedy struck. Alan Starling, 19, the home goalkeeper, after 11 minutes' play, went down for another fierce Taylor drive and damaged the ligaments in a knee. He was carried off and will be out for some time.

Luton.—Starling (Allen, 56min); Ryan, Bannister, Slough, Branston, Moore, Collins, Busby, Macdonald, Keen, French.

Walsall.—Parkes; Gregg, Evans, Harrison, Jones, Atthey, Taylor, Seal (Baker, 56 min), Woodward, Trevis, Morris.