

JOYLESS LUTON

By C. A. COUGHLIN

Luton 0, Swindon 0

SUPPORTERS of either team have little prospect of any jubilation this season. Their displays reveal both as sides currently exuding sheer honest endeavour and none of the characteristic flair or personality that brings success.

Luton, with 11 goals from 11 league games—four of them goalless draws—are obviously missing their departed striker MacDonald—and some of their fans too. Gates this season are about 3,000 down per match on last season's home average.

And Swindon, only two points behind them in the table, will need more than the experience and spirit of veteran recruit Mackay to bring them joy.

There was little enough of it anyway for anyone yesterday until the 15th minute when Anderson eluded Harland, raced on in goal-worthy fashion, only to be brought down by Thomas six yards out. But no penalty was given.

Good chance

Then Swindon's Rogers, subdued until the 20th minute, had a good chance when put through in the centre by a Horsfield forward header, but he lofted the ball well over.

Anderson, Halom and Keen got in commendable shots as Luton got the edge towards the end of

the first half. But after the break Swindon dominated Jones, a striker, replaced defender Burrows who had been injured early in the game and in the reshuffle Harland moved to centre back and Mackay assumed a deeper role.

More attacks

Now more composed, Swindon mounted more attacks and in the 51st minute Noble, their live'nest forward wasted a great chance. With Barber out of goal, he turned a centre by Rogers straight into Shanks from close range.

A minute after the slow hand-claps began in the final quarter. Halom, Luton's recent £30,000 buy from Fulham was replaced by Busby. But goals from either side seemed always a remote possibility.

Luton: Barber; Ryan, Shanks; Slough, Nicholl, Moore; Wainwright, Keen, Halom, Givens, Anderson, Sub: Busby.

Swindon: Downborough; Thomas, Trollope; Butler, Burrows, Mackay; Bunkle, Harland, Horsfield, Noble, Rogers, Sub: Jones.

Referee: R. Perkin (Stafford).