

Luton full of flair

By C. A. COUGHLIN

Luton 2, Millwall 1

MILLWALL, unbeaten at home, faltered in their promotion challenge at Luton with their third away defeat of the season.

Luton, who have dropped only three points in their last seven games, deserved these two mainly for their first half dominance when Millwall looked anything but Division One hopefuls.

For about 20 minutes after the turn-round, the Lions roared and reduced Luton's 2-0 first half lead. But their rattled defence then faced further Luton onslaughts. Their hero was goalkeeper King. He injured his left leg in an innocent collision with Halom in the first half and courageously played on, limping badly, yet managing to make many good saves.

Perhaps Millwall's defence missed the enthusiastic work rate of their popular skipper, Cripps, whose barnstorming propensities were used instead in attempts to sledgehammer a path to Luton's goal.

Free-flowing

It had effect. His right-wing run after 53 minutes brought them their only goal from Possee after Smethurst had chipped Cripps's pass on; and Cripps managed to ram the ball home from close in after 67 minutes, but no goal was given because of an infringement among the crowd of players.

The game's attraction was undoubtedly Luton's free-flowing attacking style. Nicholl, six minutes after having gone close with a header from a Hindson corner, made no mistake from a similar situation in the 19th minute to head Luton into the lead.

After 34 minutes, Givens fought for possession near the left by-line and got over a rising centre which Anderson met with a bullet-paced header into the roof of the net.

Kitchener was booked late in the second half for a delayed tackle on Halom.

Luton: Read; Ryan, Slough; Keen, Nicholl, Moore; Anderson, Court, Halom, Givens, Hindson. Sub.: Wainwright.

Millwall: King; Brown, Cripps; Dorney, Kitchener, Burnett; Bridges, Bolland, Possee, Smethurst, Dunphy. Sub.: Alder.

Referee: F. Bassett (Swindon).

IT'S THERE!

Peter Anderson throws up his arms in joy after heading the ball into the Millwall net for the Town's second goal. It was a spectacular effort which would have beaten any defence.

