

LUTON PLUNGE 71/72 INTO DANGER

Luton 0, Watford 0 By GEORGE ROGERS

THEORETICALLY, I suppose, this must be called a local derby. But theory was as far as it went, and I don't blame the fans at all for their jeering at this slipshod mess of a match.

The only excuse that could be offered was that a strong wind made control difficult, although not as difficult as both teams made it seem.

Watford had it at their backs in the first half and used it reasonably well until it came to getting goals.

But although their marksmanship gave a clear indication of why they are bound for relegation, their missed chances were nothing like as bad as Luton's, who are now plunging rapidly into relegation danger.

In the 15 minutes before half-time Givens and Halom between them should have had three or four goals.

Take, for example, the farce when Ryan came through and smacked the ball against the post.

Yawning

From the rebound the net was yawning, but first Givens and then Halom failed to put the ball in.

Watford manager George Kirby candidly admitted: "We did not come to win but for a point." But they really shouldn't have got it.

Such shots as did get through were ably dealt with by Walker, whose agility made us wonder why Watford thought it necessary to go into the transfer market for a replacement for him.

It was that sort of afternoon for Luton who have now gone 11 games without a win.

LUTON: Barber — *RYAN (John) 8, Nicholl 7, Slough 6, Shanks 7—Keen 5, Court 6—Ryan (Jimmy) 7, Givens (w'drawn) 5, Halom 5, Hindson 6. Sub.: Anderson 5.

WATFORD: Walker 8—Butler 6, FRANKS 9, Welbourne 6, Williams 6—Lugg 5, Eddy 6, Lindsay 6—Wigg 7, Morrissey 6, McGettigan 5. Ref.: J. K. Taylor (Wolverhampton) 7.