

BRAVE BARBER BLUNDERS

One mistake mars Keith's fine display

71/72

SWINDON TOWN 2 LUTON TOWN 1

SPARE A thought for Luton goalkeeper Keith Barber today. For most of last night's rearranged match at Swindon he gave a competent, mature performance which should have given the Town at least a point. But a double blow in five minutes later in the game cost Luton the points.

Barber pulled off a string of super-saves as Swindon pulled back from a half time reversal, and none was better than that in the 76th minute when he went down at the feet of the speeding Trollope who had been let through by a Keen mistake.

It was a brave and timely intervention, but it cost the Town goalkeeper a kick on the spine that must have affected him five minutes later when he muffed a cross from the left.

It was put over by the tricky Rogers and dropped at the feet of Horsfield who blinked in amazement, smiled his thanks and banged in the winner.

Luton's shoulders drooped, but that was it. Mistakes

by ROGER DUCKWORTH

are punished at Swindon.

Not that it was a wonderful match, with Luton slow to start and Swindon even slower.

Luton's first shot at goal came in the 14th minute when John Ryan, looking lively in midfield, raced in to thrash a blistering shot inches over the top.

But Swindon were not as easily overcome as Portsmouth last weekend. And they did not concede the midfield so easily.

Ryan, I thought, looked less sure of himself in his new midfield position, though he was as eager as ever to do well.

And Wainwright and

Don Givens shoots home Luton's goal

Keen worked hard without ever really taking the job by the scruff of the neck. The Luton skipper was harried into mistakes by the hard-running Reds.

But the grafting of Halom and Givens brought Luton into the game, and after Givens had headed over, the Luton Irishman smashed the Town ahead from a Halom pass.

Ten minutes later Ryan ran onto a Hindson pass and would have scored Luton's second had it not been for a brilliant save by Downsborough.

But Luton were not decisive enough. They were worth their half time

Rogers scores

lead, but they got away to a messy start in the second.

On the hour Rogers, who had been having a quiet match in the main, showed all his old guile to equalise. Bunkell put a ball over from the right and Rogers dummied a right-foot shot, pulled the ball to his left, and hammered it home.

There was a suggestion of hand-ball about his controlling of the original pass, but Luton's appeals went unheeded.

Rogers had speed, and when he wanted it, ambition, but on the whole Shanks did a good job in marking him. Slough shared the job with credit when Rogers wandered over to the other wing. The clearing of Slough was also decisive.

In the heart of the Luton defence Alan Garner camouflaged an ankle injury well to give a workmanlike

performance, and he had good cover throughout from a dour John Moore.

To those who blamed Barber for Luton's defeat by that one mistake, I offer the following chronicle of his great work:

15th minute — fine save at edge of box to Hubbard;

20th minute — diving catch to close-range Horsfield header;

55th minute — flying save at feet of Bunkell;

65th minute — caught and held hard shot from Rogers;

67th minute — high-speed interception in front of Noble;

73rd minute — pushed over hard shot from Noble;

74th minute — good catch to Horsfield header;

76th minute — gallant save at feet of Trollope — hurt.

After the match a disappointed Alec Stock said that he would field the same Luton side for Saturday's home match against Bristol City.

As he said: "Ryan did well in a new job. You can't be thoroughly converted from a full-back in two matches."

