

YES, FRENCH IS BACK!

Luton 2, Millwall 2

By ALAN SMITH

SURPRISINGLY little of the edge has been taken off Graham French's football by nearly two years in prison.

He was always a very quick, direct player, but Millwall must have thought he had lost all that as he soft-shoed through the first half of this, his comeback game.

Then he exploded into goalscoring action — a 25-yard shot that made it 2-0 for Luton and should have clinched victory for them.

You would have thought French had won a cup for Luton because team-mates jumped on his back and nearly everyone in the stand stood up to roar their appreciation.

REMARKABLE

On reflection, though, this might have been sheer astonishment that any player should suddenly be able to produce such a moment from what had been a rag-bag of a match.

French's goal, which added to Butlin's early score, also had a remarkable effect on Millwall.

Inside a minute, Possee dived to head in an adroit free kick from Dunphy, and suddenly they got their weird tactical arrangement in midfield all sorted out.

Now they pushed another man up and there was never a doubt they would get at least a point.

Luton have a back four who often stand around like typists under the mistletoe at the office party. Frequently they are left looking as frustrated and forlorn.

Their downfall this time was begun by Garner. He let in Alder, who was then brought down by Barber.

It is the sort of thing goalkeepers usually get away with. This time it meant a penalty, which meant a goal for Boland.

Possee nearly won the match in the last few minutes, but that would not have been fair.

LUTON: Barber 5—Shanks 6, Ryan (John) 6, Garner 5, Thomson 7—French 7, Andersen 6, Ryan (Jim) 6—Hale 6, Butlin 6. *ASTON 8.

MILLWALL: King 6—Bolland 6, Kitchener 5, Dorney 5, Cripps 6—Burnett 7, Brown 6, Dunphy 7, Alder 6—*POSSEE 8, Weed 6.

Ref: R. Kirkpatrick (Leicester)