

GARNER'S DIVE TO GLORY

By TOM JACK

72/73
(FAC)

Bolton 0, Luton 1

THE stage was set at Burnden Park — its tall terraces packed and swaying again after 10 lean years—for a demonstration that Wanderers were taking infant steps to another golden age for them. But Jimmy Armfield's young actors seemed to have forgotten their lines this time.

A crowd of about 40,000, a remarkable gathering at a ground that had seen only 7,000 for games earlier in the season, rode them into a frenzy of effort in this fiercely fought cup tie. But, though they might sigh for the unlucky failure of many powerful long shots, their much trumpeted forward line rarely had the guile to pierce a well-ordered defence.

Not that Luton's spearhead fared much better—apart from Aston and Jim Ryan, whose delicate touches on the wings lent some sophistication to a scene though not of much blood certainly of much thunder.

Luton's strength lay at the back, where Garner presided over a mobile and swift-tackling defence. It was Garner, too, who scored the winner driving in the 43rd minute to glance in an Aston corner in the absence of any Bolton man to challenge him.

Bolton: Wright ; Ritson, McAllister ; Rimmer, Johns (P.), Waldron ; Nicholson, Johns (G.), Greaves, Lee, Phillips.

Luton: Carrick ; Shanks, Thomson ; Slough, Garner, Moore ; Ryan (Jim), Ryan (John), Butlin, Hindson, Aston.

Referee: D. W. Smith (Stonehouse).