

Millwall play cat and mouse

72/73

By DAVID MILLER

Millwall ... 3 Luton ... 2

LUTON seemed more drained by their Cup victory at Bolton than Millwall were by their defeat at Wolves and the Bedfordshire club's last, lingering view of promotion sank from sight at The Den last night.

Two up just after half-time, bustling Millwall were wholly in command, playing with more adventure than one has seen from them for a long time. It went to their heads—they relaxed and presented Aston with two goals in four-and-a-half minutes, with 20 minutes to go.

Yet they came back to win with a brilliant diving header by Bolland, made possible by the cleverly-flighted free-kick of Dunphy, one of the game's more coherent craftsmen.

Butlin carried off

Fortunately for Luton, a knee injury sustained by Butlin, who was carried off just after they had equalised, is not as serious as at first supposed.

Millwall set off at a gallop, Wood and Bolland both going close.

But Slough struck a serious note when nearly scoring for Luton from 25 yards. Millwall roared back, Wood went close, Brian Brown had a 30-yard shot turned over the bar, and from Steve Brown's corner, Bolland, moving from right to left across the goal-mouth, scored with a glancing header that Denis Law would have been proud of.

Cripps was lucky not to be booked—or worse—for running into goalkeeper Horn feet first and starting a 15-man melee. Smethurst made it 2-0 with the second half 47 seconds old.

Millwall sensed the game was in the bag, but far from it. King had to make a superb save from Slough and then consecutive errors by Kitchener and Dunphy presented Aston with simple goals.

Goodeve replaced Butlin, and immediately appeared to handle the ball for a penalty, but was let off. But not for long. With 14 minutes left, Bolland flung himself through a static defence to meet Dunphy's free-kick a couple of feet off the ground.

Millwall.—King; Brown (B), Cripps, Dorney, Kitchener, Burnett, Brown (S.), Smethurst, Wood, Bolland, Dunphy.

Luton.—Horn; Shanks, Thomson, Slough, Garner, Moore, French, Ryan (J.), Butlin, Busby, Aston.



Gordon Bolland heads Millwall's first goal past Graham Horn, the Luton goalkeeper, at The Den last night, watched by (left) Harry Cripps.