

Hero Roberts earns justice for Oxford

72/73

IT WAS an inexplicable decision that finally gave Oxford this victory. Derek Clarke had been sent sprawling by John Faulkner as he moved into a scoring position, and it looked an obvious penalty. No, insisted referee Derek Nippard—obstruction! But fate has a way of sorting these things out, although Hugh Curran miscued his free kick from just outside the six-yard box.

It looked a gift for the competent fingers of 'keeper Graham Horn, but up went David Roberts to steer it neatly into the back of the net.

It was no less than Oxford deserved in a typical end-of-season game with a succession of avoidable errors and an almost village-green spirit about the play.

For they always showed that

by ROSS BENSON

Oxford 2 Luton 1

extra reserve of competitiveness that allowed them to end their footballing year on a winning note.

It was Luton who opened the scoring, however, when Alan Slough drifted through United's defence in the 30th minute and sent a perfect lob over Roy Burton's head from 20 yards.

Two minutes later Oxford were level again. Graham Atkinson turned the ball out to the unmarked Cassidy, lurking at the edge of the area, and Cassidy hit it home neatly under the diving body of Horn.

It needed something unusual to give them both points—and that's just what the referee's decision was in the 74th minute.

It was poetic justice that Oxford managed to snatch that winning goal despite having such a clear-cut penalty decision refused them.

Luton brought on Paul Price for Gordon Hindson in the 77th minute and Oxford countered by substituting Ken Skeen for Keith Gough.

By then, however, it was just a case of waiting for the final whistle.

OXFORD.—Burton; Light, Shuker, Roberts, Clarke C, Atkinson, Gough, Clarke D, Cassidy, Curran, Aylott. Sub: Skeen.

LUTON.—Horn; Shanks, Thomson, Slough, Faulkner, Goodeve, Anderson, Ryan (John), Busby, Hindson, O'Connor. Sub: Price.



● PETER ANDERSON