

LUTON THROW AWAY THEIR CHANCES

By COLIN MALAM

Luton ... 1 Fulham ... 1

LUTON will not win promotion to the First Division in this wasteful manner. A goal up after eight minutes, and in command for two-thirds of the game, they then surrendered the initiative and a valuable home point to persistent Fulham.

Indeed, the London side nearly added another victory to their run of six games without defeat since Paul Went and Steve Earle were sold for a total of £220,000.

A draw was ample satisfaction for Alec Stock, the present Fulham and former Luton manager, and Viv Busby, one of the two former Luton players he has taken to Craven Cottage.

Stock, a shrewd operator in the transfer market, was criticised heavily for selling Went and Earle, while Busby was baited unmercifully yesterday by the crowd of 12,259—Luton's largest since Boxing Day last year.

Busby's answer

Busby had the last laugh, however, when he crossed the ball after 79 minutes for John Conway to force in an equaliser which had been on the way—thanks mainly to Mullery's midfield dynamism—for at least 10 minutes.

Fulham had started purposefully, Slough, their other former Luton player, letting fly dangerously from 25 yards on three occasions. They pressed again just before half-time, when Shanks and Thomson kicked off the line from John Conway and Slough.

But Luton, who took the lead when Fraser turned an Aston centre past his own goalkeeper, should have profited more handsomely from the control of midfield, won for most of the first half by West, Anderson and Ryan.

Luton.—Horn; Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Ryan, Husband, Butlin, West, Aston.

Fulham.—Mellor; Cutbush, Fraser, Mullery, Lacy, Dunne, John Conway, Jim Conway, Busby, Slough, Barrett.