

Jim Ryan saves lucky Luton

Port Vale 1 Luton 1: by DON HARDISTY

JIMMY RYAN, former Manchester United starlet, snatched a replay for Luton with six minutes left of a hectic tie which had been close to abandonment when a hailstorm hit Vale Park in the first half. Referee Ken Burns told me he had considered such a course when the storm reduced visibility—and Luton might well have been delighted at such an end.

Throughout the first half and well into the second they were kept at full stretch by an enthusiastic side. Vale might have hung on to the lead which their 20-year-old centre-half Dave Harris gave them in the 59th minute but they had closed the game up.

Instead they let Luton in for the chance the Second Division side must have thought would never come.

Graham Horn made a superb save after 59 minutes, tipping Mountford's header for a corner, but he was well beaten by the resulting header from Harris.

John Ryan tried to clear but only helped the ball into the net.

Equaliser

After 77 minutes John Brodie had to go off with a bruised shin, and Vale lost some of their defensive balance. Finally John Ryan, given his place when Don Shanks was dropped because he failed to turn up for Luton's team talk on Friday, found his namesake Jimmy unmarked and ready to slip the ball wide of Boswell's right hand for the equaliser.