

Proud Luton back in top division

W.B.A. 1, Luton 1

By BRIAN MARSHALL

LUTON survived some anxious moments late in this game to collect the point required to give them promotion into the First Division. For most of the match they were far superior to West Bromwich but a bad penalty decision, which gave Albion their 72nd minute equaliser from Tony Brown, produced a great deal of pressure.

But Luton deservedly survived and were well worth the point because they were always prepared to attack. Luton now return to the First Division after a lapse of 14 years.

A delighted Luton manager, Harry Haslam, said afterwards: "The promotion of such clubs as Luton into the First Division is good for the game. Leeds, Ipswich and more recently Queen's Park Rangers have proved that small clubs can grow with driving ambition inspired by playing in the First Division.

"The players have responded magnificently to my demands for attacking football and have scored 76 goals this season. But I have told them to enjoy the success while they can because next season will be really hard. We are not going into the First Division with any despondency as we are prepared to accept the challenge of higher football."

Albion's shortcomings were highlighted early in the match when Butlin put Luton ahead when he headed in a Faulkner free kick. In sharp contrast to Albion's dismal performance, Luton were delighted with the outcome.

A rather officious referee, Mr. K. McNally, booked John Ryan, Wilson, Faulkner and Mayo. In the 72nd minute he made a rank bad decision when he awarded a penalty after Johnston "won" a spot kick when he jumped at Faulkner just inside the penalty area.

Brown made no mistake from the spot and for the first time in the game Albion displayed some of the urgency which had previously been lacking—but Luton held on to their draw.