

OMINOUS RING FROM IPSWICH

74/75

By RADFORD BARRETT

Luton 1, Ipswich 4

FOR the 91 clubs labouring in the wake of Ipswich, the bubbly post-match chat of their manager, Bobby Robson, had a familiar and ominous ring.

His unabashed praise for his team, from front to back, not forgetting those trojans of the midfield, Talbot and Viljoen, was delivered in a Geordie accent, but had the lilt of an old Bill Shankly lyric about his beloved Liverpool.

Luton's chief, Harry Haslam, put it differently: "Don't they attack the ball when you get near their area?" he asked feelingly. He did not mention that his team didn't.

Luton submitted with undue equanimity—until Talbot got his second and Ipswich's third goal with 32 minutes to go, from the penalty spot. Ryan was adjudged to have held Gates.

More sinned against

Some will say Gates, younger brother to Bill Gates, formerly of Middlesbrough, was more sinned against than sinning. but it is true that there was not a trace of ill-feeling in the match until he replaced Lambert in the 58th minute, though Hunter was booked later for a foul.

Three goals are, in Mr Haslam's phrase, a crowd, but his team, swallowing their pique at this harsh decision, hit back at last, through an Alston header.

But Whymark's reply, also a header, was in a different class, like most of Ipswich's play in their piercing spasms of attack. Even then their pace, energy and versatility hid the absence of their sharpest striker, Johnson.

Hamilton, selfless and busy and fast becoming reminiscent of Ian Callaghan, was the other scorer. Twente Enschede will need to look lively on Wednesday to outsmart Hunter and keep the score down—most of all if Johnson completes his recovery and Lambert (thigh strain) and Beattie (kick on calf) are fit.

Luton.—Barber: Shanks. Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, John Ryan, Hindson, Husband, Butlin, West, Alston.

Ipswich.—Sivell: Burley, Mills, Talbot, Hunter, Beattie, Hamilton, Viljoen, Woods, Whymark, Lambert (Gates, 55 mins.).