

Haslam's big stick threat pays off

By DESMOND MARSH

Luton 3, Carlisle 1

A MEASLY crowd of only 12,000 gamely summoned hearty excited cheers at Kenilworth Road for Luton's first victory of the season to hitch themselves well off the bottom of the First Division — over Leeds — and some fashionable London neighbours plummeted past them in horrible disarray.

Before the game Luton manager, Harry Haslam, threatened every player that they would be dropped unless their effort improved. He said there were a bunch of extremely talented reserves whom he would not hesitate to promote. Something drastic was certainly needed, for before the game Luton were holding up the First Division and had sold their effective lanky striker Butlin, to Nottingham Forest.

All this season sides have been coming to Luton not intent on one point, but knowing there were two for the taking. And sure enough Carlisle set out full of vigour. They might have been two up inside five minutes. But Luton hung on somehow when lo and behold, they scored on the quarter hour with their first cogent attack.

Alston touched through a beautifully weighted pass; the Carlisle defence who had barely a chance to warm up stood rooted as trees and Anderson hared through and jovously buried his drive behind Ross.

Stunned Carlisle quite went to pieces, all their early flourish forgotten. True, they did score one just before half time when Laidlaw cleverly hooked in McIlmoyle's header as he fell.

But the revival was only passing. On the hour the rangy Australian, Alston, sealed a fine performance when he threaded his unlikely, gangly way through the defence for a corking solo goal—and then Jim Ryan put the issue beyond doubt with a penalty after Parker had handled which left Carlisle for dead and the little crowd quite beside themselves as they sung the last 10 minutes away.

Luton: Barber; Shanks, Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner; John Ryan, Hindson, Jimmy Ryan, Husband, West, Alston. Sub.: Garner.

Carlisle: Ross; Carr, Gorman; O'Neill, Green, Parker; Martin, Train, McIlmoyle, Balderstone, Laidlaw. Sub.: Barry.



● JIM RYAN'S penalty kick clinches the Town's first league win of the season. Ross got his hands to the shot, but could not hold it.