

LUTON RALLY UNREWARDED

By RADFORD BARRETT

Notts Co. 1 Luton 0

Jimmy Sirrel and his Notts County team make Blondin's stroll across Niagara Falls look like a cake-walk. They are treading the tightrope of Division II leadership without visible means of support.

Yes, I am exaggerating, but not much. Saturday's 11,173 crowd, though County's biggest of the season, could more accurately be described as the least meagre.

Luton deserved to lose, because they seldom showed much enterprise till the 66th minute, when Scanlon scored for Notts County with a sharp right-footer, thanks to the persistence of Carter, Richards and Bradd, and Anderson's hesitancy.

Luton's perverse behaviour is all of a piece with the modern notion that it is all right to be level, but rather bad form to go ahead. Their late aggression brought out the best in County's staunch centre-backs, Needham and Stubbs.

Smooth understanding

Several Division I clubs would pawn the grandstand for this pair, who are as smoothly interdependent as scissor blades. It seemed beyond Luton to elude both.

County's forwards run intelligently to the long-ball promptings of their defenders, mixed judiciously with excellent breaks fashioned by McVay, who in the first half beat three men inside 10 yards to put Carter clear for a centre that Buckley did wonders to reach about half an eyebrow before Bradd.

The first half was spoiled by a few decisions that nettled players on both sides—a penalty each might have been awarded, and the decision that wrecked McVay's witty attempt to up-and-under a way through the off-side trap also applied a damper.

Notts Co.—McManus; Richards (P.), O'Brien, Bolton, Needham, Stubbs, Carter, Probert, Bradd, McVay, Scanlon.

Luton.—Barber; John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, P. Futch, King, Alston, R. Futch, Jim Ryan, Aston (Sub: Husband, 32 mins).