

LUTON BOW TO BOLTON SKILLS

By PETER KEELING

Bolton ... 3 Luton ... 0

Luton's challenge for honours was swept aside almost arrogantly at Burnden Park last night as Bolton, needing a 4-0 win to move to the top of the Second Division for the first time since being relegated 12 years ago, failed by only 0.03 of a goal to achieve their objective.

Luton were three down at half-time, victims of a vintage display of flowing, entertaining football that earned praise from those eminent First Division personalities Billy Bingham (Everton), Bob Paisley (Liverpool) and Don Howe (Leeds).

Bolton's quick movements and precision passing had Luton in trouble from the start. Within three minutes Paul Futcher was forced into a faulty back pass and Whatmore dispossessed goalkeeper Barber to give Gary Jones an easy goal.

Despite the efforts of Ron Futcher and John Aston, Luton could not compete with the razor-edge reactions of Bolton, and in the 23rd minute it was 2-0.

Rasping drive

A neat one-two between Whatmore and Reid gave Byrom his chance and he rounded off the move with a rasping drive.

A fine hooked effort by Aston nearly beat Siddall in reply, but in the 36th minute, Allardyce made it 3-0 with a spectacular diving header from Whatmore's centre.

Though overwhelmed, Luton showed glimpses of the class that took them to six successive victories and, in the 75th minute, Ron Futcher hit a post after a move involving Aston, King and Chambers.

Bolton. — Siddall; Ritson, Dunne, Greaves, P. Jones, Allardyce, Byrom, Whatmore, G. Jones, Reid, Thompson.

Luton.—Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, P. Futcher, Jim Ryan, King, R. Futcher, West, Aston.