

LUTON EARN POINT

AFTER five successive home wins Stoke came down to earth with a bump at the Victoria Ground in a match so crammed with errors and end-of-season apathy that it will be remembered as a close encounter of the boring kind.

The game was there for the taking but Stoke threw it away.

Luton's defence tightened up so efficiently that Stoke scarcely produced one goal attempt in the second half and by then Luton were well worth a point.

It might have been different if Viv Busby had not squandered the most gilt-edged chance of the match in only the third minute. He drove his shot over after a lovely build up by Garth Crooks and young defender Geoff Scott.

Luton, with Ron Futcher always involved and often out

by MICHAEL NORTH

Stoke 0 Luton 0

of luck and Alan West, Ricky Hill and Lil Fuccillo controlling the midfield, were on top for a spell but it was Stoke who created the chances.

True, Roger Jones had to make a fine diving save from a Hill header, but Stoke should

still have gone ahead when Crooks twice volleyed over on the turn from right-wing crosses from Steve Waddington.

Two or three penetrating runs from midfield by Busby almost got Stoke moving. Two efforts from Richardson were tipped round the post by Aleksic and that was the end of Stoke as an attacking force and the game as anything resembling entertainment.