

Saints and sinners

Luton 1, Southampton 2

PAUL FUTCHER, chosen by the Luton supporters as their Player of the Year, may well be in line for a similar accolade from Southampton fans after conceding a last-gasp penalty to keep the Saints firmly on course for the First Division, writes **Mike Regan**.

With many Luton regulars following the fortunes of local side Barton Rovers at Wembley, the match had all the flavour of a home game for the well-supported south coast club. This was reflected in the early play and Southampton's greater commitment allowed Boyer to conduct his joyous overtures in attack against a vulnerable Luton defence.

Luton, however, gradually subdued the Southampton threat and held out shakily until the interval, although a fierce header from MacDougall after 25 minutes was only inches wide.

The second half again saw Southampton playing with greater composure and, in the 53rd minute, the Luton defence finally cracked when a pinpoint free kick from Ball allowed MacDougall to head home.

The euphoria in the Southampton camp dissipated 10 minutes later when Hill beat the off-side trap and cannoned the

ball past the forlorn Wells.

Southampton, displaying a good deal of character, responded by launching a series of well constructed raids. And, in a final flurry, the unfortunate Paul Futchter brought down Ball just inside the penalty area to enable Peach to convert the kick