

By BRIAN MADLEY

Luton 1 Watford 0

WAYNE TURNER celebrated his 24th birthday with his first goal for two years. 84/85 (FAC)

These local rivals had spent 267 minutes locked in combat when Turner struck. He raced on to a pass from Parker and sent his shot under the diving Coton.

It put Luton into the lead in this tie for the first time since it started on Monday night — three games ago.

Watford boss Graham Taylor said: "Neither side wanted to lose—so you couldn't expect us to entertain: It's enough that we got through three games without one player from either side getting booked."

Certainly, Turner did not care how the victory was achieved, as he drank a bottle of Lucozade and explained: "I have had flu all week."

"But I managed to recover in time for each of the matches, before

going back to bed for the days in between.

"I hadn't scored since we beat Brighton at the end of the season before last. So I was due one. And it couldn't have come at a better time."

Turner, a local lad, lost his first-team place when Luton signed Peter Nicholas from Crystal Palace. But Nicholas was Cup-tied for this marathon.

DIRECTOR

Now Luton are a game away from a semi-final spot—against Third Division Millwall on Wednesday.

"We must not consider them easy opposi-

tion. They've beaten some good teams to get this far and are on a 'high.'

"But it's nice to be at home and to have the chance of reaching the last four," said Luton boss David Pleat, who was made a director of the club on Friday.

Turner's shot was the first on-target effort by Luton, which proves what a dull affair it had been.

Barnes, a surprise inclusion for Watford after missing the previous two games with a hamstring injury, looked as if he'd be the man to settle the issue.

His England class

showed and he created two great chances.

● Match of the Day cameras last night showed that Watford should have had a 35th minute penalty.

Luton's Mitchell Thomas was seen controlling the ball with his arm inside the area, but referee Jeff Bray, 15 yards away, waved play on.

LUTON: Sealey 7—Breacker 7, *FOSTER 8, Donaghy 7, Thomas 7—Parker 7, Hill 6, Turner 7—Stein 6, Harford 6, Nwajiohi 7.

WATFORD: Coton 7—Sinnott 7, McClelland 7, Terry 7, Rostron 7—Taylor 7, Lohman 6, Jakkett 6—Callaghan 6, BARNES 8, Blissett 6.
Ref: J Bray (Hinckley) 6.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS