

GISSA GOAL, MITCHELL

Watford 1 Luton 2

DICK TRACEY, Minister of Sport, saw a match as compelling as a political broadcast.

He won't have learned much about the state of British football.

But at least he can report back to Mrs Thatcher that the Youth Opportunities Programme is a great success.

Mitchell Thomas who joined Luton under the Government-funded YOP scheme showed that he's learned to make his own opportunities.

By ROY COLLINS

He scored a remarkable goal from an angle so tight that he couldn't have seen a thread or two of net.

And until a frenetic last eight minutes Thomas's goal—his first for Luton—looked like being the winner.

Yelling

Then Talbot who is more an OAP in football terms, got an equaliser that was reward for his driving captaincy.

Within five minutes, however, Talbot was yelling at his team-mates again as Terry's own goal ended Watford's unbeaten home League record.

Manager Graham Taylor said: "I thought we'd made a draw from defeat but some naive defending let us down."

Mr Tracey, though, must have been as baffled as the rest of the 16,107 fans.

These teams are rightly regarded as two of the best attacking sides in the country. But as Luton manager David Pleat admitted there weren't many shots on goal.

For choice of match it was definitely a case of Oh, No Minister!

England manager Bobby Robson didn't have such a wasted day. He at least knows that Foster, outstanding in Luton's defence, is a good centre-half cover for Mexico.

But what did they make of this in Norway where it was beamed live? They probably switched over to a political broadcast before the exciting finish.

WATFORD: Coton 6—Bardsley 6, Terry 6, Sinnott 6, Roston 6—*TALBOT 8, Jackett 7, Porter (w'drawn) 6—Sterling 6, Barnes 6, Allen 6. Sub: Smillie 6.

LUTON: Sealey 6—Breaker 6, *FOSTER 8, Donaghy 7, Thomas 7—Hill 6, Nicholas 6, Stein 7, Preece 7—Hartford 6, Nwajiobi 6.

Ref: G. Napthine (Leicester) 7.



□ HEY! That's mine! Brian Stein (Luton) and Worre Sterling make a fight of it.