

Pearson is ready to accept relegation

By Charles Whebell

89/90

Luton Town..... 2, Millwall 1

AFTER watching his team slump to yet another defeat, this time at Kenilworth Road, Millwall manager Bob Pearson did not exactly admit to "throwing in the towel"—but his after-match speech had an air of inevitability about it.

"It's obvious that's nearly it, but if we do go down then we will go down with a bit of pride," he said trying hard to put on a smile.

On Saturday's performance bottom-placed Millwall look certain for relegation, but then Luton, who lifted themselves out of the bottom three with this win, hardly looked likely to climb free easily.

Mr Pearson agreed with Jim Ryan, Luton manager, that the tension of this "six pointer" got to both teams.

"When you're at the bottom

your confidence is thin and we were frightened to try things," said Mr Pearson. It was in the 42nd minute when McCarthy, who was making his debut after signing for Millwall on loan from French club Lyon, headed into his own net after a corner was missed by his goalkeeper Branagan.

It was not a good day for new boys. Millwall's other debutant, Allen, a £400,000 signing from Norwich, was booked for a foul on Dreyer.

Almost all the action was confined to a 90 second period in the second half. Black shot Luton further ahead in the 75th minute and substitute Briley pulled a goal back with his first touch a minute later. Then, immediately after, Dowie missed a sitter for Luton, which just about summed up the afternoon.