

# Luton fire fades out

Carlisle 2 Luton 0: by JOHN BELL

DESPITE A lively start by Luton, John Gorman's freak goal and a gem from Bobby Owen lifted the relegation blues from Brunton Park as Carlisle turned on their soundest League show since they hammered Preston 6-1 on Boxing Day. Even with a swirling wind behind them after the break, Luton could get nowhere against a cool, tough Carlisle defence in which Brian Tiler and John Gorman were outstanding.

Carlisle should have scored five goals.

Twice Owen was sent hurtling through alone, but each time he hammered the ball against Keith Barber's legs when he could have side-footed it past him.

The breaks came Carlisle's way regularly and Dennis Martin and Laidlaw could have helped the goals pile up.

It looked as though it might be Luton's day at the start. Alan Ross made a fantastic second-minute save from Peter Anderson, diving acrobatically to palm his shot round a post.



● JIM RYAN

. . . went close

## *Fantastic*

Luton won three corners in the first few minutes—and then fizzled out.

Barber made a couple of fine saves from powerful efforts by Chris Balderstone before Gorman snatched the lead in the 26th minute.

Gorman swung over a speculative centre, but, as Barber darted out, the wind suddenly caught the ball and it floated through his hands into the top right-hand corner of the net.

Nobody looked more amazed than Gorman, who nearly made it 2-0 five minutes later, shaving the bar with a 20-yard drive.

Owen's goal, seconds before half-time, was one of the best of the season at Carlisle. Laidlaw sent the ball on to O'Neill, who lobbed it forward for Owen on the right of the box.

He caught it on the bounce and his cross shot swept in before Barber could move.