

WERE CLOSE TO A DOUBLE

LEEDS UNITED 2

LUTON TOWN 2

Having gone through 13 matches without figuring in a draw, the Town were due for one, but there would have been a different story had luck been with Pye when he took a free-kick near the end.

With the Leeds defence lined up expecting a hard drive, Pye lobbed the ball over their heads just as he did at Fulham earlier in the season. The move deceived everybody, but the ball struck a post and was scrambled away.

Near misses and goalmouth excitement were the keynote of another thriller watched by 31,700 people, second largest gate on the Leeds ground this season.

The thrills began in the early minutes when Davies slashed the ball across the face of the goal and continued when CHARLES headed a clever goal to give the United the lead after 11 minutes.

A minute later, a matter of inches stood between Pember-ton, deputising for the injured Mitchell, and an equaliser, for his terrific first-time drive shook the underpart of the cross-bar.

Although Leeds threatened to improve their position for a short time, the Town quickly regained their stride and PEMBERTON had consolation for his previous bad luck when he levelled matters after 26 minutes with a low shot from nearly the inside right position from a perfect pass by Pye.

TOWN TOOK LEAD

This gave the Town the upper hand and PYE gave them the lead five minutes later when he pounced on the ball as Leeds defenders hesitated following a centre from Davies.

Playing brilliant football, and moving the ball quickly and accurately, the Town were well worth their advantage, although Leeds were dangerous when they broke away, especially when Charles had possession.

Obviously, there had been a pep talk at half-time for the home side, for they resumed strongly and the Town were soon defending.

Then, the weather came to the aid of Leeds, for rain which quickly turned to sleet, then snow, beat into the faces of the Town defenders and made their task much more difficult.

Two brilliant saves by Baynham, both from Nightingale, helped on their cause, but it was not all Leeds, for, at the other end, Scott just kept out a real piledriver from Pye.

After 65 minutes, Leeds equalised through LANGLEY who just reached a pass from Charles and blazed the ball into the roof of the net from close range.

Following this, it was a ding-dong struggle in trying conditions with both sides having escapes.

BETTER FOOTBALL

FROM TOWN

Right through the piece, the Town were the more clever footballing side, with Pye the man that Leeds could never subdue. Whenever he had possession of the ball, Leeds could expect trouble and it usually came their way.

Constantly in the first half, he sent Davies racing away with passes on the inside of Hair and the winger had another very good day.

Watkins played his part admirably by doing much of the fetching and carrying and Moore was a worker, too, though he did less shooting than usual.

Had things gone entirely right for Pemberton, he would have had more than one goal, for he was constantly dangerous inside the penalty area, though he had his limitations as a winger.

Half-back strength was a vital factor in the Town's favour, with Morton and Shanks again tireless at wing-half and Owen doing a great job in cutting down the effectiveness of Charles.

Jones was rather more certain than Aherne, who was troubled by the nippiness of Meek, but his kicking was very good.

When the Leeds pressure was at its height, the Town owed much to Baynham who made some brilliant saves and on his Christmas showings, he will qualify for a long run in the first team.

LEEDS: Scott; Dunn, Hair; Kerfoot, McCabe, Burden; Meek, Nightingale, Charles, Iggleden, Langley.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pye, Watkins, Pemberton.

Referee (in both matches), B. A. E. Buckle, Peterborough.