

ANOTHER GO AT THE "HATTERS"

Defensive slips on the part of Reading rather than any skill on the part of Luton Town enabled the "Hatters" to have another chance in the semi-final of the Southern Flood-light Cup competition. Not that Luton did not display some attractive movements in Tuesday's game at Elm Park; their forwards moved as well as those of the home side, although be it to the credit of the Reading line they were quite as capable as their First Division opponents.

Luton were the first to get the ball into the net, but the point was struck off, Jones having been fouled. This incident arose from a free-kick, the ball cannoning high off a crowd of players into the air, and as the Reading goalkeeper went to catch it he was charged and it fell into the net. The free-kick which resulted led to Reading opening the scoring. Wheeler, who was Reading's best marksman and at times shot with great power, had a good effort turned round the post. A feature of the play of Barry King, making his Elm Park debut, was his accurate corner kicks. This one was no exception, and Wheeler headed the ball down for **Dixon** to slam it into the net.

Baynham, in the Luton goal, was given plenty to do, and he had to dive to a header from Wheeler and next dropped the ball from another King corner to recover it and clear. Then came the first of those unfortunate goals. Davies brought down Groves in the penalty area when danger did not seem imminent, and the resulting penalty kick appeared to be a correct decision on the part of the referee in spite of the protests of some of the Reading players and the opposition of the crowd. Anyhow, **Turner** scored from the spot-kick. Then another hot drive from Wheeler was put round the post by Baynham and the corner produced another goal. This time it was Harrison's kick, and **Wheeler** smartly hooked the ball so that it struck the goalkeeper on the chest and went into the net. Reading certainly merited their interval lead of the odd goal in three.

DEFENSIVE ERRORS

Although Reading did their fair share of attacking in the second half, Luton were more in the picture, and Jones was frequently very much in action. It was an erratic goal-kick which started the movement which brought another equalising goal. Jones did not send the ball as far as the halfway line, and Pacey returned it. Davies had plenty of time to kick away, but he missed the ball completely, leaving **Turner**, a very cool forward, with an easy task to score.

Almost immediately, Reading went in front again. From a King centre, Walker put in a powerful shot which the Luton goalkeeper could only parry. Before he could recover **Wheeler** dashed in to put the ball into the net. Dixon had hard luck with a high dropping shot which hit the post. Then McLeod got the ball into the Reading net, only to be penalised rightly for offside. In the closing stages some bad marking enabled Luton to force a replay. McLeod put the ball over, and it should have been cleared. But several players missed it before it reached Turner. Even then this forward's shot hit the crossbar, but **Groves** was there to head into the net from the rebound. Once more Reading appeared to take the lead, but this time Dixon, who headed in, was penalised for a foul on the goalkeeper.