

READING WIN THROUGH TO FLOODLIGHT FINAL

Dixon Goal KO's Luton Town

By a Special Correspondent

Luton Town 0, Reading 1

AFTER a purposeful, hard-fighting display in the replayed Southern Floodlight Cup semi-final at Luton on Monday, Reading just about deserved to make progress. They were much the better team in the first half when, with luck, they would have enjoyed a bigger lead than the one given them by Dixon in the 27th minute. Dixon jumped high to head a centre from Whitehouse over the hands of Baynham and just under the bar.

Previously, Whitehouse, whose return brought improvement to the Reading attack, had struck the inside of a post and, afterwards, Dixon missed an open goal by ballooning the ball too high.

Reading had their big slice of luck in the first minute when McGuffie came striding through an open space to crack in a drive that rebounded off the face of the bar.

After that shock, Reading settled down extremely well and their more direct methods on a difficult,

because Pacey was very unlucky with a header that beat Jones, but the ball was booted off the line by McLaren.

At times in the second half there was heavy and persistent Luton pressure, but the defence stood firm and Jones gave a brilliant display of clean handling of the greasy ball.

Quite a lot of danger came from Wheeler and after an incident between him and Baynham, a penalty kick was awarded against the goalkeeper, but Penford shot badly wide from the spot.

Dixon nearly made things safe with a shot that struck the bar, but Reading had to withstand heavy pressure in the closing minutes when Whitby saw a shot cleared off the goal-line.

It was a courageous, workman-like display by Reading, who looked better as a team than their First Division opponents.

Luton: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; McGuffie, Owen, Pacey; Whitby, Turner, Cullen, Groves, McLeod.

Reading: Jones; McLaren, Penford; Anderton, Davies, Evans; Wheeler, Whitehouse, Dixon, Walker, Harrison.

Referee: C. A. R. Worn (London).

Attendance: 4,000.