



● Paddy Fagan, Manchester City winger, dribbles round Ron Baynham, the Luton goalkeeper, and shoots for goal, but Bob Morton falls back to save on the line.

CITY SPARKLED THEN FADED

By REX DENTON

58/59

Manchester City 1 Luton Town 1

LUTON TOWN'S unbeaten certificate looked very ragged at the edges at times against Manchester City at Maine-road, but in the end it remained intact, thanks to a grand second-half revival.

It didn't look too good for Luton when right-winger Paddy Fagan whipped a cross-shot passed Ron Baynham in the second minute, and Luton were really tottering when Fagan again cut inside to round Baynham, but Luton's luck was in with Seamus Dunne standing right in the line of fire, sole guardian of the untenanted goal, to kick the ball away.

Such a flying start by the City should have meant curtains for Luton. Instead the Town fought back with a brand of football that gradually outclassed City, and once they had equalised, through John Groves in the 24th minute, they never looked like finishing on the losing end.

Full-back Dunne, following his habit of taking the throw-in, deceived the City by making the throw as half-back Morton came up to collect the ball. Pacey, unmarked, went through before passing to Groves, who flashed the ball home.

Hit goalkeeper

Another "goal" to Luton with a flying header by right-winger Billy Bingham, but this time referee Windle said "offside."

Before half-time, City, always struggling against the odds, had another chance, only to see McAdams hit goalkeeper Baynham from close range.

City's left-wing of Hayes and Sambrook could make nothing of the sturdy Dunne. Yet on the two occasions Sambrook was able to beat the Irishman a goal might have followed, but it just wasn't City's night.

The second half had its dull periods, for Luton, despite their superior mid-field play, spoiled much of it by keeping the ball too close when they got near the penalty area.

Their shooting, too, very often at long range, could have been improved upon. For City it was a harrowing time. Their forwards could make little of the defence, even after centre-half Sid Owen was injured.

Over the bar

Luton had the chance to make victory secure in the closing minutes, but Groves scooped one shot over the bar from close in, and Turner hit the post with a shot that was deflected by Ewing, and then when a Turner header was pushed out by Trautmann's deputy, Steve Fleet, Groves again spoiled his otherwise excellent performance by shooting over the top.

City's best were goalkeeper Fleet, the rock-like Ewing at centre-half, and skipper Ken Barnes, whose efforts to turn the City attack into a lively combination were largely wasted.

SCORERS. — Manchester City: Fagan (2min.). Luton: Groves (24).

MATCH RATINGS.—Skill: Manchester City 6; Luton 8. Entertainment 6. Sportsmanship 8. Control 8.

MANCHESTER CITY: Fleet (8); Lelvers (7); Sear (7); Barnes (7); Ewing (7); Warhurst (6); Fagan (6); Barlow (6); McAdams (5); Hayes (6); Sambrook (5).

LUTON: Baynham (7); Dunne (8); Hawkes (7); Morton (7); Owen (8); Pacey (7); Bingham (7); Turner (7); Brown (6); Groves (7); Adams (7).

REFEREE.—R. H. Windle (Chesterfield).



● Ron Baynham jumps high to intercept a Ray Sambrook centre as Joe Hayes dashes in.