

Luton's hopes rise

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Luton 4 Charlton 1

IF Luton do avoid the drop into Division III they can thank centre-forward Ron Davies, whose sudden goal-surge in the last few weeks could hardly have come at a better time, writes **JACK PEART**.

Although only half-fit after being bed-bound earlier in the week he cracked in a four-minute goal in this battle of the relegation zone. I thought Charlton 'keeper Frank Reed should have saved this shot—nor was he entirely blameless for another two goals.

Charlton's desperate position is best summed up by their young chairman Michael Glicksten: "We need four points from our last two games to have any chance of staying up. Now I shall not have a night's sleep until we have met Walsall in the last match of the season."

This key game could be vital for Luton's hopes too for they meet Sunderland at home tomorrow and travel to Stoke for their last game.

Luton, better in every department always looked winners after Davies shot them into an early lead.

Wing-halves Morton and Bramwell blotted out Charlton's inside men while centre-half Kelly won his duel against their best forward, centre-forward Ryan, who battled bravely without much support.



When Davies jabbed Luton's second goal after 36 minutes I thought inside-right Turner, who crossed low from the left, was well offside. Even so, had goalkeeper Reid been where he should have been, by the near post, Davies would not have scored.

Ten minutes after the interval Turner sealed Luton's victory when he trapped the ball and turned in the same movement to score from about 12 yards.

Turner got his second after 72 minutes when he crashed a 20-yard free kick past Charlton's defensive barrier with the keeper well out of position.

Within a couple of minutes Charlton left-back Hewle scored a consolation goal when Lucan side-tapped a free kick to him.

Charlton chairman Mr. Gliksten said: "I don't think we will go down but if we do—that's football. We have had more than our fair share of injuries this season. We have the youngest side we've ever had with an average age of 21 and we are trying to build a new team."

"If we do go down we will just have to go on building and fight our way back."