



● Tense moment in the Reading goalmouth as Luton inside-forward Ray Smith (right) races for a through pass in the F.A. Cup-tie at Kenilworth-road

PENALTY REVIVES A WEARY LUTON FORWARD LINE

Luton 2 Reading 1: by JOHN MURRAY

FLAGGING Luton, trailing by a 69th-minute goal, were put back into the game and on their way into the third round of the Cup by a penalty five minutes later.

Luton had spent plenty of effort but they were caught taking a breather by resurgent Reading. Then came the vital award, from which centre-forward Gordon Turner scored, and Luton stormed on to snatch the match.

The penalty itself was a matter of mystery. First Turner tumbled, and referee Burns (Dudley) appeared to wave play on.

But, in the scramble that developed, Luton inside right Ray Smith was one of the handful of players who hit the ground.

It had been a hard, even first half, with neither side having sufficient fire power or chance-carving ability to take command.

Reading goalkeeper Arthur Wilkie had made a great save from a Turner pile-driver, Reading left back Colin Meldrum shone in a series of exciting mopping up operations, and Luton centre-half Gordon Fincham dominated the middle.

We were just telling ourselves for the third time that one goal would decide the tie—if it ever came—when Reading took their second half lead.

Winger Dennis Allen put the ball over from the left, and inside left

Duggie Webb miskicked against a defender and gratefully rammed in the rebound.

Before that penalty incident, outside right Freddie Jones missed a fine chance to consolidate Reading's lead when he skied Adam's cross.

Luton's winner 11 minutes from time came from another complicated goalmouth situation.

Turner launched the raid, and left half Alwyn McGuffie might have scored with his fierce drive if his colleague Smith's head had not been in the way.

Reading only half-cleared the ball, and outside right Mike Fairchild swept in his first goal for Luton.

It was tough luck on Reading, for their share of the game had merited a replay.

And no doubt several of their defenders will have bruised legs today—many of Luton's scoring attempts had rained on them.