



Down goes Reading goalkeeper Arthur Wilkie to save from Luton's Gordon Turner at Kenilworth-road.

LUTON WIN BUT CRIPPLED READING WERE HEROES

Luton 2 Reading 1: by GRAHAM BUXTON

LUTON manager Bill Harvey admitted that his team made heavy weather of beating a badly handicapped Reading side. "But I am grateful for the points," he said.

With 25 minutes gone left-back Colin Meldrum fell heavily on the frozen ground and limped off with a sprained ankle which meant the end of the game for him.

Reading pulled back outside-right Jimmy Wheeler to left-back, and although he gave a spirited display, Reading found the handicap too much and were a goal down when Gordon Turner, last-minute choice for outside-right, scored after 15 minutes.

Throughout the first half with the debutante John O'Rourke showing plenty of spirit and ability, Luton were more dangerous, but failed to make the most of their chances. O'Rourke, a "free gift" from Chelsea, looks as if he might be the answer to Luton's goal-shyness.

Had his luck been in he would have had a couple of goals by half-time. Twice he slipped the grasp of Dick Spires. Once he headed just over and then was foiled of his first League goal by a brilliant save by Albert Wilkie.

When Tommy McKechnie increased the Luton lead four minutes after half-time, Reading appeared to be in for a thrashing. Instead they earned the honours in the remainder of the game for their gallant fight.

After Doug Webb reduced their arrears after 56 minutes, Luton

could never regard their position with complacency. Webb was always a thorn in their side and it took a couple of smart saves by Colin Tinsley, making his first senior appearance, to keep Luton ahead.

Strangely Luton lost their first half cohesion after they scored their second goal, but they should have had others. Their finishing was weak, and McKechnie and Ray Smith missed good chances.

Reading took a major share of honours for the way they tackled a near-impossible task, and although at times their defence was hard pressed, wing halves Maurice Evans and Rodney Thornhill found the opportunity to harass the Luton defence.

Conditions were against good football because the ground was frozen so hard as to be dangerous, so that judgment had to be reserved on Luton's forward experiments.

O'Rourke was a definite success, and John Reid looks as if he will settle down. These two players can go some way towards restoring the Luton fortunes.