

Right: All eyes are upturned as Tommy McKechnie, a lone figure among Hull defenders, challenges for a centre by Gordon Turner. — JK2994B. Below: No chance here for O'Rourke and McKechnie to force a way through because the Hull defenders have covered up and the tall Milner rises high to head clear.—JK2993B.



Below: As Dave Pacey tries to break through, the ball runs lose after a tackle by a Hull defender and John O'Rourke is preparing to scramble to his feet to make a dash for it. —JK2992B. Right: O'Rourke, liveliest of the Town forwards and scorer of the last minute winning goal against Hull is foiled this time as Swan grabs the ball from his feet.—JK2995B.

O'Rourke steals Luton winner

Luton Town 2 Hull City 1: by GRAHAM BUXTON

LUTON, the team that seem to like making hard work for themselves, did it again against Hull, who protested vehemently against the award of an 89th-minute goal by John O'Rourke. Hull claimed O'Rourke was offside as he closed in on a deflection from a shot by skipper Dave Pacey. But referee Jack Lowry, of Neath, after a quick glance at his linesman, signalled a goal.

That was the first time Luton had been ahead in a match which they should have sewn up by half-time.

For most of the first 45 minutes Hull were content to funnel back into their own penalty area against the Luton attack made, but wasted countless chances. Luton were unlucky when O'Rourke twice hit the woodwork, but there were glaring misses, such as one by Gordon Turner, who pulled the ball wide with all the goal to shoot at.

Hull, breaking out of defence only occasionally, took the lead

dramatically in the 22nd minute when Rafferty made a fine header which Baynham clawed out of the air. But the 'keeper could not hold on to the ball and Henderson was on hand to run it into the net.

After that Hull gave the appearance of being able to hang on to their slender lead.

In the early part of the second half they even became ambitious and launched some dangerous raids. But the Luton defence was firm.

Luton's hero was right back Alan McBain, who had a couple of gashes on his shinbone just before half-time, but bravely played on to help Luton to what at one time seemed to be an unlikely victory.

Not until Harry Walden was switched from the left wing to outside right did Luton look as if they might achieve something.

Then Tommy McKechnie, who had taken over from Walden, swept in the ball after 65 minutes.

O'Rourke's goal, only seconds from the end, left Hull feeling that they had been robbed. But they hardly deserved a point because of their negative approach and their over-emphasis on defence.

They might, with average luck, have hung on to a draw, but they paid the penalty for being over cautious.

