

O'Rourke eases Luton's worries

63/64

Colchester 1 Luton 1: by FRANK STEVENS

LUTON goal-grabber John O'Rourke jumped for joy as referee Norman Matthews confirmed that the goal Colchester men disputed—and which eventually earned his side a draw—was a good one.

Even O'Rourke had hesitated when he saw the linesman flag him off-side as he collected a loose ball from a desperate Luton clearance.

But he dashed on when the flag dropped as the official changed his mind and O'Rourke was unchallenged when he fired his desperate-for-a-point side into a 66th-minute lead.

Right from the start Colchester had been caught napping by no-nonsense forwards who never let a scoring chance go by.

Young O'Rourke often came close to giving struggling Luton a first-half lead, but a knot of Colchester defenders—and hard-working Percy Ames—had managed to keep him out.

Inside-right McKechnie headed

against the bar and shots from O'Rourke and right-half Dave Pacey, went close. Then there was a long, tense period midway through the first half when nothing seemed to help the Luton forwards score as shots were pushed, pulled and beaten away from goal.

The best Colchester had produced was a cheeky attempt by inside-right Billy Stark, who almost managed to slip a neat centre from leader Martyn King past Ron Baynham.

Wild finishing

But Colchester took over the running after the interval, and although their defenders managed to force Luton's forwards into finishing wildly, Colchester's attack could never match Luton's first-half punch. O'Rourke took his disputed goal straight from a bad moment in the Luton goalmouth.

It was only after Colchester lost right-half Derek Trevis with an injury—he later came back to the right wing—that they looked like saving a point. Inside-left John Docherty was far more dangerous as he dropped back to his usual left-half berth, and right-winger Bobby Hill added more weight to the attack when he moved inside.

Luton were really up against it when King equalised in the 74th minute. He slammed in a ball that cannoned off two Luton defenders before bobbing past Baynham into the net.