

LUTON TAKE POINT IN TOUGH TUSSLE

Grimsby 2 Luton 2 : by ROY THOMAS

LUTON were the second side at Blundell Park during the week that seemed intent on pulling the Third Division leaders down the League ladder if they could and Grimsby were again at the receiving end, getting a series of free kicks which came to very little against the tough Luton defence.

The Hatters had their moments, of course, though they were limited to shots from Gordon Riddick and John O'Rourke that were well off the target.

Grimsby always looked potentially dangerous and Ron Foster, butt of last season's crowds, was the best inside forward on the field.

Dick Young, in the side in place of injured Tees, made the boob of the match when he escaped the attentions of Mark Lownds and then shot over the bar from 10yds. with only goalkeeper Baynham to beat.

Immediately after this Lownds went into referee Nicholson's book and he had words for the second time in the game with Luton back Alan McBain. Then Foster scored for Grimsby.

Grimsby's George McLean, always trying, had a rare tussle with Gordon Fincham and the big centre half was Luton's best defender.

Luton's finishing was poor when they were anywhere near goal, but

O'Rourke got a lucky equaliser. The ball bounced clear from a ruck of Grimsby players and he hit it into the net from 12 yards.

Grimsby, at last stung into something like championship spirit, went back to the attack late on in the game. When the ball was headed clear by a Luton defender Ron Foster headed it straight back and Young just beat Baynham in a race for the ball.

After Luton's goal it again became one-way traffic for the Hatters, but still Grimsby could not round off their attacks effectively.

Cockerill put through his own goal to complete the dismal Grimsby picture.

Again George McLean was Grimsby's character and the big centre forward has come a long way since his first game two years ago when he arrived from Norwich City.