



● Reading goalkeeper Arthur Wilkie races out to punch the ball away as Luton inside right Gordon Riddick challenges at Kenilworth Road.

READING SHAKE UP LUTON AFTER LOSING KEEPER

Luton 3 Reading 1: by GRAHAM BUXTON

AFTER a first-half, in which their manager Roy Bentley admitted afterwards, "We deserved nothing," Reading met with a stroke of bad luck. In the 59th minute, when Luton were hanging on not very securely to a single-goal lead given them by Ted Phillips early on, there was an unfortunate incident.

David Pleat chased a pass by Reid. He seemed to have little hope of reaching it until Arthur Wilkie left his goal and collided with his left back Colin Meldrum. Both were knocked out and Pleat went on to walk the ball into an empty net.

Meldrum went off but returned soon after and went to centre forward. Wilkie was not so lucky. After 10 minutes' absence from the field he became unconscious and was taken to hospital.

For a time Luton were well on top especially when Billy Harber put on a third goal, but the killer instinct was absent and handicapped Reading were allowed to get back into the game and even rattle the Luton defence.

The gallant Meldrum pulled back one goal and there were one or two close calls at the Luton end.

At the same time Denis Allen, having taken over the goalkeeper's jersey, made some good saves, particularly from Phillips, who was by far Luton's most dangerous forward.

Only other attacker to merit

marks was the diminutive Harber, who showed plenty of spirit, but the right wing of Pleat and Riddick was sadly out of tune.

Luton will have to show more cohesion in attack if they are to continue their run.

Defensively they did well, and goalkeeper Tinsley, in great form these days, made the save of the match just after half-time when Allen shot from point-blank range. Without doubt that was the turning point.

Reading had little more to offer in attack than Luton, but their defence settled down well after a shaky start. Walker and Meldrum cut out the menace from the Luton wingers, and Spiers made sure that most of Phillips's shooting was done from outside the penalty area.