

Luton hopes get a jolt

By C. A. COUGHLIN

Luton 2, Bradford City 3

LUTON'S hopes of promotion to Division Three suffered severe jolt yesterday when they were beaten on merit by bottom-of-the-table Bradford City.

It was no fluke victory for the Yorkshire side, who since a young and enthusiastic new board assumed control six weeks ago have taken six points out of eight.

Overall, the displays by both teams were a credit to Division Four, but on the day Bradford were the faster, quicker and more cohesive unit.

On the sticky top surface, which made it necessary to use long, high balls for making ground, Bradford adapted themselves the better.

Luton had settled admirably after 10 minutes, and with every forward prepared to shoot from the 18 yard line, looked probable winners.

Under pressure

But the subtle probings of experienced internationals Hannah and Leek provided openings for Bradford wingers Thorpe and Hall that had the Luton defence always under pressure.

Leek opened Bradford's account after 29 minutes when he shot home a Hannah square, free-kick pass from the 18-yard line.

However with 30 seconds Luton were level when Read ran in to slide home a Whittaker cross from the left.

Leek put Bradford in the lead again 10 minutes later after Hall put him clear on the right. He dribbled through four defenders before steering his shot just inside a post.

Goal of the match

Left-half Ellam laid on the goal of the match for Bradford's third 10 minutes after the break. From just inside his own half he emerged from a ruck of players with the ball, ran the full length of the field past six Luton men to the by-line before cutting the ball back for Roden to tap it in.

Rioch scored Luton's second in the 65th minute, a great effort from about 20 yards.

Luton: Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Riddick, Woods, Rioch; Pleat, Read, O'Rourke, Stark, Whittaker.

Bradford City: Wood; Ingle, Cooper; Stowell, Fox, Ellam; Hall, Hannah, Rodon, Leek, Thorpe.

Referee: E. T. Jennings (Stourbridge)