

LATE GOAL SHOCK FOR TOWN

COLCHESTER UNITED 2
LUTON TOWN 2

THERE should have been a flying start to Easter for the Town at Layer Road on Friday when, before a large following of their own fans, they lost a lead they had held for almost exactly half the match with two minutes remaining.

To return with a point was undoubtedly a good performance, but it could have been so much better had the team suddenly not appeared to become over confident in the closing stages.

When the late equaliser came, it was a thoroughly unsatisfactory affair because the Town claimed two separate infringements, were turned down on each score, although they did persuade the referee to consult a linesman, apparently about the success of the off-side trap they tried to set on STRATTON, but also appeared to be a fraction out in their timing.

Even in the face of that, the goal should have been prevented because Stratton did not hit the ball properly and it bounced over the hands of the diving Ramage.

EDWARDS had given the Town the lead in the 44th minute and, as the whistle was shrilling for half-time, O'Rourke drove the ball firmly into the corner of the net, only to find that he had not beaten the "bell."

When WHITAKER succeeded from the penalty spot after having been brought down by Forbes, and in view of the fact that they were much superior in midfield, the Town seemed to be heading securely for victory.

However, Colchester fought back and a gap developed after the ball had rebounded off Riddick and STRATTON put the Essex team back into the game.

With Moore faithfully fulfilling his task of putting Phillips out of the game, and Woods dominant despite Stratton's goals, there was no cause for complaint about the defence, but the forwards, of whom the wingers were the most lively, and O'Rourke did his best to keep things moving, have been seen in a better light.

COLCHESTER UNITED: Kennon; Forbes, Fowler; Blackwood, Loughton (Raine), Trevis; Grice, Bullock, Stratton, Phillips, Hall.

LUTON TOWN: Ramage; Riddick, Jardine; Gibson, Woods, Moore; Harber, Edwards, O'Rourke, Reid, Whitaker. Substitute: Read.

Referee: E. D. Wallace, Swindon. Attendance: 10,200.