

LUTON LET RIVALS OFF THE HOOK

by RAY COLLIER

Exeter 1 Luton 1

NOT EVEN Keith Harvey, Exeter City's trainer who was recalled to the side for his Cup experience, could stop Luton ending this game favourites to go into the next round.

But Harvey played a big part in making sure Exeter did not crumble after Luton's 24-minute goal and helped give his side at least a fighting chance of staying in the competition.

Not until 15-minutes before the kick-off did manager Jock Basford announce his final line-up, and it included Harvey who hung up his boots this season after over 400 League appearances to become club trainer.

No one could have been more disappointed than Harvey when former Youth international Ray Whittaker crashed Luton into the lead with a perfectly-taken free kick. After that Exeter really looked in trouble. Luton played the possession game superbly.

They moved smoothly and confidently and Exeter looked able to do nothing about it.

Lively

With David Pleat, one-time doubtful starter because of a bruised ankle, and right-winger Brian Johnson, a 17-year-old playing only his second game for Luton, producing lively football in the attack, Luton looked a much better side than their League position suggests.

The second half was a completely different story. In the first half Exeter were out of touch and out of form. In the second half they were out of luck.

Finally they found some real fire, and throwing everything into the attack, the game really flared into life when, in the 55th minute, Ray Keeley got an equaliser.

The man who made the goal was Ley. His free-kick was nodded down by centre-forward George McLean to the feet of inside-right Keeley who shot first time through a ruck of players.