

ALTHOUGH Luton Town dropped a point in their promotion challenge they had at least the satisfaction of contributing to one of the most entertaining games seen at Barnsley for several seasons.

The pace never flagged as both sides built up their attacks quickly in mid-field—and up-front there was plenty of speed in the forward lines to carry on the work swiftly. But both teams also lined up solidly in defence so that many of the raids were beaten back before they reached the 18-yard line.

At the outset Luton set up a series of well-integrated moves which had the Barnsley defence in a quandry. It seemed that Barnsley would not be able to provide the answer to these flourishes.

Dramatic change

The state of the game changed dramatically in the 19th minute, however, once Barnsley mounted a real threat. Earnshaw, who was to become their most dangerous forward, crossed for Hampstead to score with a header.

After this Barnsley became the more aggressive side. Luton's defence held on grimly as their opponents had done earlier.

Yet once more the balance of play was changed with a superb goal. This time Rioch gathered a loose ball 40 yards out and his fierce drive whistled through a crowd of players into the net in the 43rd minute.

Series of attacks

Psychologically this goal came just right for Luton. They promptly swept into a series of attacks after the interval and went ahead in the 46th minute when Ryan headed a cross from Whittaker into the net.

Two minutes later Barnsley were level. Luton's defenders failed to clear several times and eventually Bettany drove the ball home.

Apart from Rioch, who will be remembered for a great goal, Luton were indebted to Ryan for most of the danger in their attack. Branston and Moore were outstanding in Luton's defence.

Barnsley: Ironside; Murphy, Brookes; Bettany, Winstanley, Howard; Earnshaw, Hobson, Graham, Taylor, Hamstead.

Luton Town: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Slough, Branston, Moore; Ryan, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, Whittaker, Sub. McDermott.

Referee: M. R. Tinker (Boston).