

Hats off! Luton make certain

67/68

WHILE Luton were ensuring promotion for themselves, the contenders for Division One honours were suffering mixed fortunes. Manchester United and Leeds both won, and received the glad tidings that Manchester City had dropped a point at Wolverhampton while Liverpool, their F.A. Cup dreams wrecked in the week, were being dealt a grievous blow to their hopes of the consolation.

... thanks to Rioch

Halifax 0, Luton 1

BY their only goal win at Halifax Fourth Division leaders Luton gained the points necessary to ensure a place in the Third Division next season.

In a closely contested game Halifax were within sight of a division of the spoils when in the 82nd minute Rioch of Luton drove in the winner direct from a free-kick a few yards outside the penalty area.

Luton had had to fight hard and with much midfield play it was a defensive struggle with the defences in command for the most part.

Luton undefeated since January 13, made one change, Brown being on the right-wing in place of Whitaker who was suffering from tonsillitis.

In the opening half Luton were prominent and Brown almost scored with a fierce shot which Halifax keeper grabbed near an upright. Allen followed up with a very close effort after being put through by Slough.

Bright start

Luton pressed, but whenever Halifax broke away Read in goal was cool and confident, and made good saves from Flower and Wallace.

After a bright start to the second half, Read saved brilliantly from Flower, and there was another close call when Jardine kicked hurriedly away from the goal.

The defences held until six minutes from the end and the all-important goal by Rioch. Luton's success marked Rioch's 19th league goal of the season. Luton are the third team to accomplish the double against Halifax this season.

Halifax: Smith; Russell, Rampton; Pickering, Holt, Wallace, Flower, Massie, Morris, Ryden, McCarthy.

Luton: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Slough, Branstons, Moore; Brown, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, French.

Referee: R. Capey (Crews).