

Luton show they have tenacity

Luton 3, Tranmere 1

NO players should be required to operate in the sort of conditions that hours of heavy rain produced at Luton. But nevertheless these two teams, to their credit, produced an entertaining game.

There was no doubt that the result was right as Luton steam-rollered thier way to get another win at home. Yet they had their moments of anxiety after a brilliant start had failed to bring the winning lead it deserved.

From the start Cumbes, was in constant action as Luton buzzed around his goal. He collected coating after coating of mud, but held out until the 21st minute, when Sheffield swept the ball in.

The Tranmere forwards had been holding almost a watching brief, so it came as a surprise when McNamee, six minutes from half-time, tried a speculative drive that bounced in front of Read and shot into the net.

Record in jeopardy

For the next 20 minutes it seemed that Luton's 100 per cent. home record was in jeopardy. With McNamee prominent, Tranmere came right into the game.

However, Luton began to recover their poise and rhythm, and a fine goal by Lewis settled them down again. That was after exactly an hour, and another goal by Branston five minutes later settled the issue.

Tranmere, mostly prompted by McNamee, made some belated efforts to improve their game, and Read made smart saves from McNamee and Sinclair. But Tranmere could not match the penetration of the Luton attack, in which Lewis and Rioch were lively.

Undoubtedly, Tranmere's hero was Cumbes, who was afforded reasonable cover by Pointon, Smith, and Robertson in the face of Luton's fast-moving attacks.

Luton: Read; Dougan, Jardine, Slough, Branston, Moore, French, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Harrison.

Tranmere: Cumbes; Pointon, Robertson, Casey, Smith, King, Rowland, Pritchard, Yardley, Sinclair, McNamee.

Referee: H. New (Portsmouth).