

Luton battle for point

Luton 1, Bournemouth 1

THIS was no sort of match for devotees of good football. Two teams, who are favoured in the promotion race, played tough, rugged football in the mud.

Such was the quality of the tackling that it was a wonder there was not a serious injury and both managers complained afterwards about the leniency of the referee.

Luton had their chance to preserve their home record in the first half when Branston gave them an early lead. However, Bournemouth working like beavers, filled in every conceivable gap in defence and slowly regained their composure.

Yet their equaliser, after 39 minutes, was unexpected because Bumstead swept in a high shot from a sharp angle that left the startled Davie helpless.

Critical slip

Immediately after, Luton had their best chance when Allen was left with only Jones to beat but slipped at the critical moment and Jones cleared.

The story of the second half was more one of attrition than football. The ill feeling that had always been apparent became more widespread and there was no firm attempt to stamp it out.

Luton thought themselves unlucky not to have a penalty early in the second half when Lewis was floored. However, they could scarcely complain about being unfortunate because they had three of the narrowest escapes possible. Pound hit the bar and Davie saved at point blank range from East and Hold.

Chances like that did not crop up again and Luton, although they threw everything into attack in the last quarter of an hour, could not create comparable openings.

Luton: Davie; Dougan, McDerment; Slough, Branston, Bannister; French, Lewis, Allen, Rioch, Whittaker. Sub.: Sheffield.

Bournemouth: Jones; White, Miller; Naylor, Stocks, Gater; Bumstead, Pound, East, Hold, Bolton. Sub.: Peters.

Referee: N. Burtenshaw (Gt. Yarmouth).