

LUTON SO CLOSE

Manchester C. 1, Luton 0

MANCHESTER CITY, the League champions, duly destroyed any giant-killing aspirations which Luton must have had at Maine Road. But even the most ardent City supporter will want to congratulate the Luton players for their part in providing a real cliffhanger of a match.

At the end only a penalty separated the two teams, with Luton looking anything but a Third Division side. They not only showed fight and determination—the sort of qualities one has come to expect from underdogs — but they also showed considerable skill and ability, which must have caused unpleasant moments for the City fans.

In addition, they possessed Sandy Davie, a goalkeeper of such agility and courage that it was a tragedy to see him on a losing side. With a combination of hands, arms, legs, feet, fists, fingertips and knees, Davie prevented what could have been a goal riot by City and kept his team in the game with more than a remote chance right up to the final whistle.

The other heroes in the Luton team were their industrious half-backs, Moore, Branston and, especially, Slough. But perhaps the most outstanding difference between the teams was in the forward lines, where City's England internationals Bell and Lee, were in top form and could not be matched by their counterparts.

Indeed, it was Lee who earned City their place in the Fourth Round draw when he slammed home a 26th

minute penalty. It came after he had been tripped by Moore after Bell had sent him heading for the Luton goal.

Excellent saves

Luton must have been disheartened by this setback but there was nothing in their play to suggest it. They fought to the best of their ability to level the scores and it took two excellent saves by Dowd in the last five minutes to prevent Luton from achieving an equalising goal.

Manchester C.: Dowd. Pardoe. Mann; Doyle, Booth, Oakes; Lee, Bell, Owen, Young, Coleman. Sub.: Bowles.

Luton: Davie; Dougan, Banister; Slough, Branston, Moore; French, Lewis, Allen, Rioch, Harrison. Sub.: McDermott.

Referee: K. H. Burns (Wordsley, Stourbridge).