



● Luton's Allan Slough turns in joy after scoring against Reading. Ian Buxton (8) and Keith Allen run to him as Reading's Ernie Yard walks away. 68-9

Spiers sent off as Reading fight back

IF JUST a third of the fine chances created by right winger Graham French had been taken, Luton would have massacred Reading. Instead they finished struggling desperately to stay in front of their 10 opponents.

French is heavily built for a winger, but is fast and unorthodox. Not only did he send over a defence-taunting sequence of centres that asked to be converted into goals, he also planted a series of deadball kicks right into the scoring zone. The surprise was that only one brought any profit, and that came after only three minutes. French took a free-kick on the right and leader Keith Allen was pushed down in the area—it looked a clear-cut penalty.

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But the decision did not come and the ball flowed out to young right half Alan Slough whose shot cannoned back to him off the defence wall and he slammed in his second try. After 13 minutes home left-winger Mike Harrison limped off with a pulled thigh muscle and it was nearly another three minutes before he was replaced by Billy McDermott. Reading escaped another penalty risk when Dave Bacuzzi brought down Brian Lewis in the area. But referee C. Thomas (Treorchy) dealt with him severely later. The referee seemed extremely lenient to Lewis when his dangerous kick caught the head

by JOHN MURRAY

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of goalkeeper Roy Brown after he had secured firm possession of the ball. After 40 minutes Allen was speeding into the Reading area when Ernie Yard's touch from behind had him sprawling. Lewis scored from the spot. From French's first corner in the second half Alan Hitchcock headed out Allen's header. Then Ian Buxton failed to ram in another French free-kick. Reading escaped again when Brown pushed French's cross-cum-shot against the far post. After 68 minutes Bacuzzi was booked for bringing down Buxton who had already released the ball to French. Four minutes later veteran Reading defender Dick Spiers was sent off for bringign down Lewis from behind—a harsh decision. Reading's 10 made a really positive impact in the last 10 minutes. Yard drove home a goal (81 minutes) after eGorge Harris had headed on a free-kick and three minutes later Harris's header struck the fallen Sandy Davies. Then Bacuzzi almost put a French cross into his own goal.