

Luton wake up in time for victory

WHILE Luton are continuing their promotion crusade—this was their 11th game without defeat — they are proceeding somewhat hesistantly towards their objective.

Manager Alec Stock was not all that pleased with this display against one of his former clubs. "We did not seem to want the ball in the first half, but we certainly showed more urgency afterwards, and the lesson is that we must fight all the time."

Luton appeared anything but promotion material before the interval when they allowed Orient to look a more than useful team. Orient chief Jimmy Bloomfield said: "I thought we pushed the ball around well in the first half, but allowed ourselves to be pressed back on to the defensive too much afterwards."

And that just about sums up a not-too-entertaining game. Luton's attacks were almost non-existent in the first half and it was typical that their best scoring attempts came from their half backs.

In fact, it was centre-half Terry Branston who headed their

by PETER GILL

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only first-half goal after 36 minutes.

In doing so he collided with Laurie Sheffield and badly bruised a thigh muscle—an injury that will keep him out of the away game with Bristol Rovers tomorrow.

Orient reacted spiritedly and within three minutes they were on level terms. 18-year-old left-back Denis Rofe, always an adventurer, coming through to drive the ball firmly into the net. Had a header by Terry Mancini, which hit the bar a minute from half-time, been a little lower Luton would have been in deep trouble.

Inspired by brilliant goal-keeping by Ray Goddard, Orient survived until the 62nd minute. Then Sheffield got a lucky bounce of the ball in a duel with Mancini, turned quickly and slammed the ball in for a typical opportunist effort that proved to be the winner.