

'Menace' Rioch keeps Luton in the hunt

Tranmere 0 Luton 2

LUTON kept alive their promotion hopes with a lethal two-goal assault early in the second half. Their spirited spell was in lively contrast with a defences-dominated first half, in which Tranmere repeatedly fell into Luton's blatant offside trap.

But Luton's reliance on their offside play almost cost them dearly when Alan King burst through the net. The midfield man was left with only Read to beat but stabbed the ball wide.

Two minutes after the break Luton went ahead. Rioch, whose speedy thrusts down the middle justified his programme description as Luton's "biggest asset," hit a splendid shot which Cumbes turned round the post at full length.

From the corner, the ball came out to Moore, who volleyed home a spectacular 25-yard shot. An Allen pass down the middle put Rioch through seven minutes later and he calmly scored the second goal.

Tranmere, for whom the brightest gleam was the promise of their newest professional, 18-year-old Dempsey at left-back, made a courageous fight to salvage a point.

Wild shooting

But wild shooting, solid defence from Luton, for whom Dougan and Bannister were fine backs, and a miraculous save from Read, to cheat Beamish, kept the scoreline unchanged.

TRANMERE.—Cumbes; Storton, S., Dempsey, Moorcroft, Storton, T., King, Rowland, Scott, Smith, Beamish, McNamee.

LUTON.—Read; Dougan, Bannister, Allen, Slough, Moore, French, Lewis, Buxton, Keen, Rioch.