

Luton super-show

69/70

Luton 5, Bradford City 0

LUTON manager Alec Stock said after his promotion hunters had gone nap: "It had to happen. The boys were needed by last week's Cup defeat at Hillingdon."

Nor did City manager Jimmy Wheeler detract from Luton's performance. "They were magnificent in the first half, there was just nothing we could do to stop them," he said

Where the game was won and lost was in the first 13 minutes, when Matt Tees and Malcolm MacDonald cashed in on defensive

errors to put Luton two up.

To their credit, City kept coming out to try and improve their position, and their greatest slice of bad luck came a couple of minutes from half-time.

Then Bobby Ham, their most enterprising forward, smashed the ball against a post. Immediately Luton broke away for John Collins to sweep home a centre by Graham French, chief tormentor of the Bradford defence.

City hung on bravely but could not combat the effect of two injuries.

First, Peter Middleton was led off with a knee injury. Then Tony Leighton twisted awkwardly and was carried off on a stretcher with his legs strapped together.

Fears of a fracture were removed afterwards, but cartilage trouble was diagnosed and Leighton was given pain-killing injections.

Ultra-sharp Luton gave their most brilliant display of the season despite coast-

ing for much of the second half.

They were completely on top when MacDonald scored in the eightieth and eighty-sixth minutes, the second from the penalty spot after he had been fouled by Peter McConnell.

Had it not been for brilliant goalkeeping by City's Pat Liney, things would have gone much worse for them.

Liney made one fantastic save from Jack Bannister in the first half and after the interval twice prevented Peter Phillips, ex-England amateur international who came on as a substitute for Tees, registering his first League goal.

On this form there seemed nothing to stop Luton's declared aim of Second Division football next season.

There was no semblance of a weakness anywhere—even if City did not do themselves justice.