

CHAMPION-STYLE

LUTON HIT FIVE

PROMOTION rivals Bradford City were caught on the rebound as Luton Town shook off the memory of last week's nightmare defeat at Hillingdon with a championship style 5-0 victory.

Three goal Macdonald, Tees and Collins were the destroyers of Bradford, the last side to win at Kenilworth Road — twenty months ago.

But disappointingly only 11,857 saw this fine top-of-the-table clash.

A mixture of Christmas shopping and Hillingdon blues kept the crowd below normal size at Kenilworth Road for this top-of-the-table meeting.

A fair contingent of Bradford fans had travelled down from Yorkshire and before the start they taunted Luton fans by chanting "Hillingdon".

The Town fielded what is currently regarded as their strongest side, the only change from last week being a swap of shirts between Macdonald and Collins.

The Luton substitute was Peter Phillips.

Tough

This was regarded as a match of vital importance to Luton. After it they have tough away fixtures at Bristol Rovers and the Orient. It is one they badly wanted to win after sliding out of the FA Cup last week.

Bradford City were the last team to beat Luton at home — in April 1968. They won that one 3-1.

The Town got away to a spirited start with a bright-looking attack from Tees, Macdonald and Collins. Collins twice managed to get a shot in from inside the box but both times they were blocked.

From a French corner in the second minute, Macdonald, Collins, and, finally, Bannister strived hard and Bannister's shot was deflected narrowly wide of a post. From the second corner Collins blasted over the bar.

A cross which was fisted out by Davie resulted in some panic in the Luton goalmouth and Davie had to make an unconventional save at the feet of Ham before Bannister and Slough eased the situation.

Injured

In the same minute Davie was injured in a collision with Ham before he cleared.

**LUTON 5
BRADFORD C 0**

**By Roger
Duckworth**

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Ryan, Bannister; Keen, Nicholl, Slough; Macdonald, Collins, Tees, Allen, French. Sub: Phillips.

BRADFORD CITY: Liney; Atkins, Cooper; Stowell, Hallett, Leighton; Hall, Ham, Corner, Bannister, Middleton. Sub: McConnell.

Referee: Mr D. J. Lyden (Birmingham).

GOALS

TEES (Luton) 10 mins
MACDONALD (Luton) 14 mins
COLLINS (Luton) 44 mins
MACDONALD (Luton) 84 mins
MACDONALD (Luton) 89 mins
Attendance: 11,857

tackled Macdonald, full back Cooper, ran some 30 yards to see if the Luton man was all right.

The high standard of football continued and Luton were making most of the running with some flowing attacks. City, who always prefer to attack themselves, were looking a bit suspect in the penalty area when under pressure.

Luton's form continued with two almost identical moves which spelt danger for Bradford. Sparked by Allen in midfield the moves ended with flashing centres from Ryan and caused panic stations in the City goalmouth. Ryan was having a stormer.

Disbelief

The Town continued to thrill with some of the best football we have seen from them, perhaps all season. A French corner in the 34th minute brought a blinding first-timer from Jack Bannister which, somehow, Liney managed to turn over for yet another corner.

It was purely a reflex action and Bannister held his head in disbelief.

There was a deal of constructive work from Collins in midfield, but it was good to see all the Luton players working for each other.

A grand forward pass from Collins was nodded on by Macdonald and Tees was bowled over in a courageous attempt to control and take on in the penalty area. He was foiled and his appeals for a



It's a goal! Matt Tees outjumps Bradford City's defence to head in Luton's first this afternoon.



Macdonald, right, and Tees cause more than a little consternation in the City defence.

After the interval Luton continued to look goal hungry and Tees only just missed reaching a centre by Keen with his head after some excellent work by Ryan.

A splendid run covering some 50 yards by French came to nought when his good centre fell just out of the path of Tees.

Bruce Bannister, after working with Corner, showed some aggression for City. But after a good run he spoiled his work by shooting softly from too far out.

Then Luton let Bradford off the hook. Macdonald pushed a ball past City's last line of defence and chased it all on his own. As he sped for goal, Tees came up in support and Macdonald flicked a pass inside and wide of the goalkeeper's reach.

But the Town centre forward could not quite reach it and an open-goal situation was wasted as the ball ran over the by-line for a goal kick.

Nicholl and Slough were looking safe as houses at the back and full-backs Ryan and Bannister, I thought, had outstanding afternoons.

Substitute

In the 67th minute Tees, who had been working well despite a first-half knock, began to limp even more and he was replaced by Phillips, the substitution being made while Middleton was having treatment after a collision with Ryan.

After treatment on the touchline, Middleton had to be helped to the dressing room and he was substituted by McConnell.

Fifteen minutes from the end City left-half Leighton collapsed on the edge of the City penalty area. The incident happened away from play and one can only imagine that he damaged an ankle or a knee after twisting a leg in a divot.

A stretcher was called for and the unfortunate Leighton was carried to the dressing room.



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