

LUTON ROMP

BRADFORD CITY were swamped by a magnificent display of fluent attacking football by Luton whose forwards reached heights which are seldom seen in the Third Division. This victory leaves Luton three points clear at the top.

Three goals in the first half settled Bradford's fate and although Luton let up afterwards, no doubt with minds on the heavy Christmas programme ahead, Malcolm MacDonald scored twice in the last seven minutes to give him a fine hat-trick — all three goals were scored with his left foot.

Luton's forwards played so well that many Second Division defences would have had a hard time to keep them out. Graham French, John Collins, and MacDonald produced some dazzling individual efforts and there was plenty of gloriously fast, instinctive football on an awkward, slippery surface.

Fought hard

Bradford City fought hard but they had no answer to Luton's finesse. Pat Liney gave a fine performance in goal, and up front Bobby Ham often worried the Luton defence with his neat footwork.

He hit a post two minutes before half-time, following a left wing corner, but received too little support from his colleagues. Bruce Stowel was the other Bradford player to stand out both in defence and in midfield where he made some imaginative passes.

The first goal came in the 10th minute when Matt Tees rose high to head in a left wing corner from French. Four minutes later MacDonald scored the second when he intercepted Denis Atkins's back pass and

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drove past Liney from a narrow angle on the left.

Collins scored Luton's third, half a minute before the interval when he hit home a perfect left-wing cross from French from the edge of the six-yard area.

The second half did not provide the dizzy pace of the first, but Luton were always in control. In the 83rd minute Mike Keen sent a long ball down the right to MacDonald who cut in and drove fiercely home.

Five minutes later MacDonald was brought down from behind by Peter McConnell and MacDonald himself scored with the penalty.

With 20 minutes left Luton brought on former amateur international Peter Phillips for Tees and Bradford used McConnell for Peter Middleton who hurt a thigh. Soon after this their left half Tony Leighton collapsed some way from the ball and was carried off with a cartilage injury to his left knee.