

It's Mac magic!

69/70
...AS MALCOLM ENDS
LUTON'S STALEMATE

Luton Town 2 Tranmere Rovers 0

★³ MALCOLM MacDONALD, the forward who couldn't make the grade with Fulham, last night, ended Luton's frightening run without victory, and kept his club at the heart of a frantic promotion scramble.

And rarely can MacDonald have made a more valuable and well-timed contribution to the game in his young life—even though he's scored 21 for Luton this season.

For Luton went into this duel against Tranmere, aside fighting against relegation, without a win in their last five games.

For too many agonising minutes it looked as though Luton's long, lean run was going to stifle the promotion drive of the Alec Stock's men once again.

MacDonald, sold to Luton for £17,500 in the close season after scoring five goals in only ten appearances for Fulham the previous season, had twice been deprived of goals because of the daring acrobatics of Tranmere keeper Frank Lane.

But three minutes from half-time MacDonald finally broke down the Rovers barrier to put Luton ahead.

MacDonald's twenty-first of the season is probably the one which Luton fans — last night's gate of 11,368 was the lowest of the season—will remember most.

CONFIDENCE

Because it took the anxiety and desperation out of their play. The confidence began to flow back.

But there was no cause for complacency even after MacDonald's goal. Tranmere had flashed warnings earlier when they cut out chances only to waste them with unsteady finishing. And Ken Beamish was cruelly unlucky on one occasion not to put Rovers on the score-chart.

But once full back John Ryan abandoned his defensive role to score Luton's second goal on the hour—and his first for the club since December 1967—Tranmere's resistance evaporated.

Luton intend to go on searching for reinforcements. But the signs after last night's performance are good.