

MacDonald pips Reading with seconds to go

69/70

Reading 0 Luton 1

A GREAT opportunist goal by Malcolm MacDonald in the last 30 seconds gave Luton the points in a tense promotion struggle.

A hopeful clearance by Matt Tees found the speedy MacDonald half way inside the Reading half. He turned quickly to beat the pursuing Fred Sharpe in a 30 yard dash before slotting the ball wide of goalkeeper Steve Death.

It was unlucky on Reading to lose their unbeaten record after 15 games. They attacked for most of the second half, defying tricky conditions on a muddy pitch, with some clever close passing movements.

Luton often pulled back ten men under pressure. Both sides had some narrow scrapes in the first half.

Death made up for arriving two minutes late, due to traffic hold-ups, with

a brilliant ten-minute save from Tees.

Reading had a shot by Bobby Williams headed off the line by Fred Jardine and goalkeeper Sandy Davie stopped another Williams effort with a great leap.

Near the end of the first half Reading had two lucky escapes when MacDonald hit a post with a stinging header, and Keith Allen, for the injured Graham French screwed the ball wide from close in.

Reading looked like destroying their hoodoo—they have not beaten Luton for 30 years—with some confident soccer in the second half.

But they gradually got bogged down in the mud.

TOP SIX

	P	W	D	L	P	A	P	A
Brighton	37	19	9	9	47	30	47	
Orient	35	17	11	5	48	23	48	
Bristol R.	36	16	13	7	57	45	48	
Luton T.	34	17	10	7	58	34	44	
Reading	35	17	9	9	61	53	43	
Barnsley	37	15	11	11	55	43	41	