



Town players Macdonald (7), Slough (4) and Moore (6) join the Bury defensive wall with disruption in mind, but this free kick was just another of the chances that came to nothing as Luton were held by Bury last night

TOWN SQUANDER ANOTHER POINT



Luton Town 0 Bury 0

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

69/70
(MUG)

LUTON TOWN carelessly threw away another home point last night, and put another layer of tarnish on their promotion hopes. In spite of creating a generous helping of openings, not even the broadcast news that the Orient were losing at Southport could stir the Luton forwards into scoring.

And at risk of being accused, again, of being one of the club's chief knockers, I must put on record that this was far from Division Two form.

And the section of the crowd that gave the Town the bird at the end recognised this fact too. The second half was, in fact, worst than the first, because the number of chances did not arise.

Only consolation Luton can take from the outcome, is that their defence, although rarely hard-pressed did a magnificent job. The back four of Branston, Moore, Ryan and Bannister were outstanding.

Offenders

But the forwards . . . They squandered five superb chances in the first half, and Macdonald should have redeemed himself in the dying seconds of the match when all he had to do was push the ball into the empty net. He didn't.

First half offenders were Macdonald (twice), Tees (twice) and Collins.

Admittedly Luton played some smooth football as they built up attacks. But it's not enough to say this the following day. Luton have now thrown away three of their last eight home points.

After the match a disappointed Alec Stock commented: "It's a story of the ones that got away. When the ball won't go into the net, things begin to get desperate — everyone gets desperate, and then everything is bundled."

Constructive Keen

Although Luton were through five times before the break, there was not a lot of panic about the Bury defence, and they seemed well able to contain the majority of Luton's attacks. And in spite of being reckoned the worst defence in the division, Bury's backs clamped down on Luton in the second half, and won the applause of the frustrated Luton crowd as they coolly worked the ball out of trouble.

In the first half left winger Mike Harrison was putting his crosses too close to the mobile Ramsbottom in goal, and in the second, although he did not

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Ryan, Bannister; Slough, Branston, Moore; Macdonald, Collins, Tees (Allen), Keen, Harrison.

BURY: Ramsbottom; Tinney, Saile; Hughes, Lyon, Holt; McDermott, Arrowsmith (Towers), Jones, Kerr, Hince.

Referee: Mr B. Daniels (Rainham)

Attendance: 12,751.

get all his own way, he flighted the ball better.

Despite being the butt of the crowd for most of the night, I felt that Mike Keen played a lot better, and he put in a lot of constructive work under the pressure of not daring to do wrong.

Slough started in fine style in the middle of the field, and though he never stopped trying, he tended to fade as the match wore on. His colleague Collins also tried hard, but had

chance from well inside the box. Three Luton players joined the Bury defensive wall with disruption in mind, but Harrison and Ryan messed up the chance.

Luton wasted several chances from free kicks, which came thick and fast — both ways — because of some pedantic refereeing by Mr B. Daniels of Rainham, who blew for the slightest suspicion of a foul.

Little to do

Lyon, Holt and leading goal-scorer Jones did well for Bury, who must have gone home chuckling at their fortune.

Matt Tees looked a bit out of touch, and in the Luton goal Davie's handling was not always as good as it could be, though he had little to do — thanks to his defence.

Now what? A look at the League table shows that Luton are still in with a chance of promotion, but the odds are surely lengthening with every point that is tossed away.

At least Luton have a good away record. They'll need it at Tranmere on Saturday.

TOP FIVE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Orient	35	18	11	6	49	26	47
Brighton	38	19	9	10	48	32	47
Bristol Rovers	37	17	13	7	69	46	47
LUTON	36	17	12	7	60	36	46
Barnsley	39	16	12	11	57	49	44

little go right, and he was brought off 17 minutes from the end to be replaced by Keith Allen. It was a popular choice.

In spite of his early misses, Macdonald remained cool as he strived to beat the agile Ramsbottom, who had a grand match. Twice Mac tried to lure the Bury goalkeeper out of his charge, and then shot against his falling body as Ramsbottom spread himself well.

Then Tees was set up by Collins, but shot into the side-netting from a good position. Four minutes later Tees shot against Ramsbottom when he could have slipped the ball to Collins, who was in position. The Bury goalkeeper then blocked an effort from Collins, who should also have scored.

After the interval, with fans despairing, Mac went close with a crisp header from Harrison. Then, when Ramsbottom was penalised for "steps" Luton had a real