

Macdonald lifts Luton

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Luton 5, Reading 0 69/70

WHEN Reading come to assess how they lost their way on the promotion road from Division Three, two factors will dominate their inquiry—Luton and, in particular, Luton's centre-forward Macdonald.

For yesterday in this thrill-a-minute promotion clash, Reading faced a Luton side in tremendous form, backed by a home victory over Rotherham on Good Friday plus Macdonald, who scored a brilliant hat-trick to bring his League tally this season to 22 goals.

Other goals by Busby, who made his debut against Rotherham, and Harrison helped Luton to equal their previous highest League score this season.

Within the first minute Macdonald outlined his intentions when he lobbed a ball over goalkeeper Death's head for what seemed a certain goal until Barry Wagstaff raced in to hook it to safety. Ten minutes later Macdonald did put Luton in the lead, collecting a Keen throw-in on the left touchline and hitting a short inside pass to Busby before gathering the return on the run and scoring with a hard ground shot.

Before the crowd had settled after the break, Macdonald scored his second. From the kick off he broke clear down the right, shouldered off challenges to reach the bye-line, from where he cut in towards goal and sidefooted the ball past Death. In the 50th minute he roared in from the left wing to meet a Collins cross, that Busby and Keen missed, to add his third.

Macdonald also had a hand when new boy Busby opened his League account in the 57th minute. Macdonald headed to Busby's feet a free kick from Keen, on the left and Death had little chance with a ground shot.

When Harrison fired home Luton's fifth goal in the 84th minute Reading were completely demoralised.