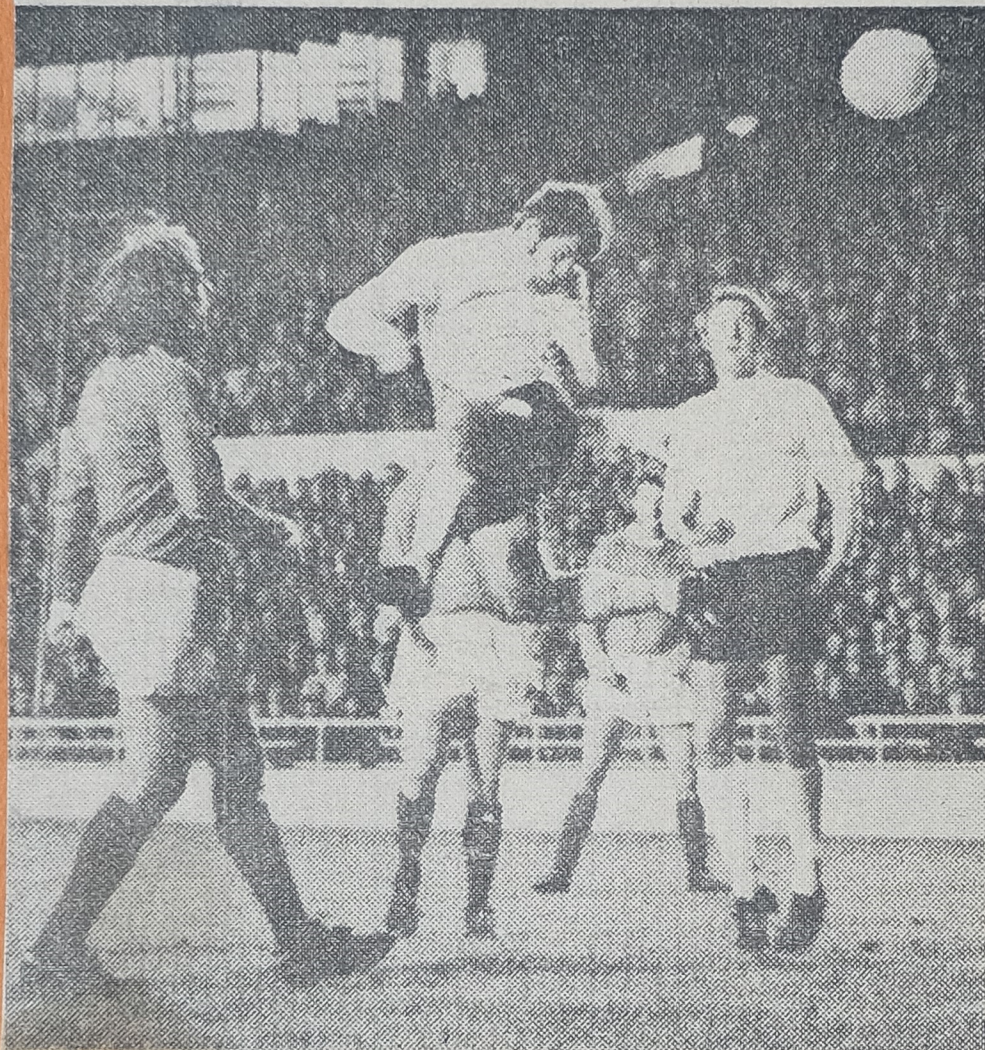


LEAPING LUTON ON TOP



Luton's top scorer, Malcolm Macdonald, rises well for a header, but this time it was saved.

Macdonald on target again

By COLIN MALAM : Luton 2, Blackburn 0

LUTON have leaped to the top of the Second Division — only 13 games after jumping up from the Third.

The incredible story of Alec Stock's promotion successes reached a new, exciting chapter last night as Luton added to their unbeaten home record in the League.

Luton could not have had a more encouraging start. Don Givens giving them the lead with a devastating goal after only 50 seconds.

Unstoppable

Running on to a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area, the Luton striker drove an unstoppable shot into the far corner of the Blackburn net.

Yet the fighting Lancashire club hit back with such purpose that the result remained in doubt until 18 minutes from

Macdonald, Luton's lead-
se to head a Keen centre
home.

A second Luton goal was rather less than Blackburn deserved. Their lively forwards, particularly Rogers and Kerr, had given the Luton defence a harrowing night.

On several occasions, only centre-half Nicholl and goalkeeper Read prevented Luton from losing their record of not having conceded a League goal at home this season.

Nicholl blocked dangerous shots from Rogers and Keen, and Read had to perform miracles to keep out thunderbolts from the same Blackburn forward.

Offside

Blackburn's best chance of the night fell to centre-forward Conlon, but he blazed Rogers' centre over the bar with only Read to beat at the start of the second half.

Conlon seemed to have made amends later when he forced home another pass from Rogers, but the referee ruled him offside.

Even after Macdonald had scored, Blackburn kept fighting. In one of the last of this game's many exciting moments, Luton full-back John Ryan headed off the line from Kerr.

Luton manager Alec Stock said afterwards: "We expect to be top. Of course I'm happy to be there. And I'm certain we have the ability to stay out in front."