STOKOE PRAISES LUTON

Luton 3, Carlisle 3 By STEVE McGILL 20/11

A SIX-GOAL DRAW looked the most unlikely result of this game—until 20 minutes from time. It says a lot for Luton's stamina that they could bang in three goals in that time on such a pitch.

Luton boss Alec Stock was asked if he was pleased with the result. He answered:

"My job is to *win* games." But even he could not have hoped for a point at one time.

"Carlisle are the best team we've played this season," added Stock. Carlisle manager Bob Stokoe returned the compliment by saying: "I rate Luton one of the best sides in the section."

Until well into the second half, Carlisle had looked worth the rating.

Two of their blows had Luton almost floored in five minutes of the first half.

First, Hemstead thundered in a 20-yarder with Read apparently unaware of the danger.

Then Balderstone banged a long-distance free-kick through Luton's defensive Wall.

Fighters

When Martin cracked in Carlisle's third after the interval, Luton looked well beaten. But promotion has never gone to the faint-hearted, and in those last minutes Luton proved themselves worthy of their high position.

Jimmy Ryan started it all by slamming the ball home after two Luton efforts had been kicked off the line. Then, a minute later, left-back Slough cracked in a beauty—and Luton saw their chance.

They took it in the very last minute.

Macdonald forced his way through the Carlisle defence for his 17th goal of the season—and Stock was smiling.

LUTON: Read 6; Ryan (J.) 7, Moore (inj.) 7, Nicholl 7, *SLOUGH 8; Court 7, Keen 7, Hoy 7; Ryan (J.) 6, Macdonald 7, Givens 6. Subst.: Busby.

CARLISLE: Ross 7; Hemstead 7; Tennent 7, Winstanley 7, Davis 7; Sutton 7, Barton 7, Balderstone 7; Martin 7, *HATTON 8, Owen 7.

Ref.: H. Williams (Sheffield) 8.