

Tony Read is Luton's hero

Roger Duckworth Verdict



THERE WAS no welcome in the hillside for Luton in South Wales this afternoon. They got a point, but by jove they had to fight for it.

Understandably Cardiff, being at home, looked the more aggressive, but Luton's defence held out magnificently under a lot of pressure.

Hero for the Town was goalkeeper Tony Read, who for the second week in succession had an outstanding match. Today he made a series of thrilling saves from Phillips, Woodruff and Gibson as

the Welshmen strived to get on top.

Luton's was mainly a rearguard action and both Nicholl and Slough caught the eye in the middle, with Jack Bannister returning to the side at left back more than earning his bread.

Keen was dominant in everything he took on — and he took on plenty. But the highlight of the afternoon for Luton came midway through the second half when John Ryan burst into the picture and smashed a terrific drive against the inside of the angle of the posts. It came out but he was most unlucky.

Honours even: Town get point

Cardiff 0

Luton 0

70/71

A COMPETENT, though hardly sparkling performance saw Luton take home a point from promotion rivals Cardiff this afternoon in a game enriched by some superb saves from Tony Read.

After a dull first half in which play was restricted to midfield, both sides showed more flair after the break and each had the chance to grab a winning goal, but it was not to be.

With John Moore unfit, Jack Bannister came back into the Luton side for his first full game this season and Alan Slough moved into midfield.

There was a bit of a surprise on the train coming down to South Wales when Alec Stock announced that Ken Goodeve would be substitute for Luton.

Goodeve, a defender, is one of the players from the package deal that brought Jimmy Ryan and Don Givens to Luton from Manchester United before the start of the season. He still has to make his League debut.

David Court, dropped last week, came back into the Luton side at the expense of Viv Busby and Luton once again took up their 4-3-3 formation.

Fluffed

For the umpteenth time this season Luton, who are becoming television stars in their own right, were in full view of the cameras. It was recorded for transmission on Harlech TV tomorrow.

After some early aimless play, Cardiff took the initiative and after a long ball into the middle by Sutton had been collected by Read, the same player fluffed a shot at goal after being put through by Carver.

The Welsh side seemed to feel success in their bones from the way they were playing and they might well have gone ahead in the 8th minute when Woodruff, the former Crystal Palace player, shot just wide with a low attempt.

But Luton were being far from overrun, and once they began to settle in the middle of the field, they forced their way forward to win their first corner which Jimmy Ryan placed on Macdonald's head and the centre-forward nodded over the bar.

Following a foul by Ban-

nister on Gibson, the Cardiff winger's free-kick was cleared to Phillips who brought a fine save out of Read with a long-range shot.

Immediately, at the other end, Macdonald received possession well out of the box and startled Eadie with a powerful shot which the Cardiff keeper had to knock down before gathering.

Although Luton were not getting a lot of joy in front of goal, Macdonald was receiving some tough treatment from Murray and he had a few words to say to the referee when he was banged down from behind for the third time on the half-way line.

Luton's best chance to go ahead came in the 32nd minute when Jimmy Ryan broke on the right and put over a cross. Both Macdonald and Givens were in position but Macdonald got his head to it first and headed wide.

Deflection

After a couple of minutes later Jimmy Ryan was involved again. He put a good ball out to Macdonald on the right and the Town leader's low centre was deflected into the side netting by Sutton.

Cardiff had two chances in the 37th minute, both from Woodruff. The first a long throw and the second a centre. Both were challenged by Gibson and after heated exchanges in Luton danger area, both were cleared.

Read was having a good game in the Luton goal and with half-time looming he cut out a corner from King when the Luton defence looked to be in a bit of trouble.

HT: Cardiff 0, Luton 0

At the start of the second half, Hoy and Gibson both got a talking to from the referee after a bit of over enthusiastic

play, but Luton began to look a bit more attacking minded.

Twice in the early stages of the second half Macdonald broke away only to see his efforts fade away in the face of a tough defence.

And with Luton looking better in midfield, Givens set off on his own on the right. With goalkeeper Eddie advancing, his centre to Macdonald was a yard or so off target and the danger was over.

Cardiff hit back with a good looking attack but Read, who was at the top of his form, made a brilliant diving interception to a dangerous looking centre from Phillips.

Luton's biggest let-off came on the hour when, after good work on the right by Gibson Phillips made room for himself and shot. This was blocked by the Luton defence but Clark found the ball at his feet and an open goal to aim at. Read made a super human save to keep Luton level pegging.

The ball swept down to the other end of the field and with the Cardiff defence wide open, John Ryan put in the best shot of the match and hit the angle of the post with Eadie beaten all ends up.

Chris Nicholl got a bash in the face but resumed after treatment.

Pressure

A Cardiff free kick taken by Gibson for a foul by Hoy was well blotted out by the Luton wall and Slough, who was doing a good job, whipped the ball clear with an overhead kick.

Macdonald had to receive extensive treatment on the right touchline after being heavily tackled from behind by Murray. Keen took the free kick from which Macdonald won a corner.

Cardiff really began to pile it on and after an effort by Sutton had been cleared, Phillips pulled out a terrific drive from the edge of the box and brought out an equally terrific save from Read in the Luton goal.

With time running out, Read pulled off another great diving save to a low shot from Phillips following a free-kick outside the box. Today Read was totally dominant and Luton deserved their point.



Cardiff goalkeeper Jim Eadie goes up to foil Roger Hoy at Ninian Park

MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

TEAMS

CARDIFF CITY: Eadie; Carver, Bell, Sutton, Murray, Harris, Gibson, Clark, Phillips, Woodruff, King. Sub: Showers.

LUTON TOWN: Read; John Ryan, Bannister, Hoy, Nicholl, Slough, Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Goodeve.

Referee: Mr I. T. Smith (Accrington).

Attendance: 26,689