



● Luton 'keeper Tony Read punches clear from Cardiff's Leighton Phillips

Read the defiant rescues Luton

Cardiff 0 Luton 0: by MICHAEL BOON

TONY READ, the goalkeeper Luton were willing to let go on a free transfer last season, soared above the slugging aerial challenges, plunged with raw courage into the bruising combat inside his penalty area, swooped with shutter-speed reflexes at a barrage of Cardiff shots—and kept a point for Luton.

Read was always in the way . . . and if luck was sometimes on his side it was no more than he deserved.

Leighton Phillips, relentless in his harrying of Luton, fought a man-to-man duel with Read.

First there was a powerfully struck angled shot that Read held at the second attempt; then a shot on the run that was deflected off a Luton defender.

Immediately Luton roared back in retaliation, and from the corner of the penalty area, left-back John Ryan crashed a shot against the angle of Cardiff's post and bar.

Back charged Cardiff against a double banked Luton defence, where the commanding height of centre-half Chris Nicholl repulsed raid after raid.

Phillips sent Read sprawling to check another shot, then let fly with a drive from an Ian Gibson free kick and the ball frustratingly rebounded off Read's body.

Luton menaced in deadly, sudden bursts.

HOT-SHOT

But Malcolm Macdonald 15-goal hot-shot of the Second Division, only twice darted clear of closely shadowing Cardiff skipper Don Murray.

Macdonald's two great chances came and went in the first half. He startled Cardiff with a 30-yard drive which Jim Eadie saved superbly, and then headed fractionally wide from Jimmy Ryan's cross.

Murray's robust handling of Macdonald and the no-quarter treatment handed out by Roger Hoy to Cardiff's Gibson were the critical factors of this fiercely fought crunch of promotion rivals.

Gibson, more often than Macdonald, skilfully wriggled clear, but could still not dominate this match as he has controlled so many others.

Luton's other near miss came when Cardiff's Mel Sutton narrowly missed diverting a low Macdonald cross into his own net, the ball skidding a foot wide with Eadie stranded.

In the second half Sutton aggressively stoked up Cardiff, but the smothering blanket of a defence ruled by Read and Nicholl repulsed all Cardiff's efforts.

CARDIFF.—Eadie; Carver, Bell, Sutton, Murray, Harris, Gibson, Clark, Phillips, Woodruff, King.

LUTON.—Read; John Ryan, Bannister, Hoy, Nicholl, Slough, Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens.