



CHRIS NICHOLL . . .
this one got away

Nicholl earns salute

By BRYN HUGHES
Cardiff 0 Luton 0

LUTON thoroughly deserved to collect this away point.

A goalless draw was the only just result to a hard, fast and skilful game.

If some of the tackling was rough it was no more than could be expected from two well-matched sides.

The nearest Luton came to scoring was midway through the second half, when John Ryan, a very accomplished full-back, hit the far post only to see the ball rebound across the goal and scrambled to safety.

Luton, however, had an even luckier escape when a Peter King shot left Tony Read helpless, but Jack Bannister was there to collect and clear on the line.

Cardiff had a shade more of the attacking in a game of non-stop thrust and parry, but the fact that they could not turn their opportunities into goals was due to the outstanding defensive powers of Chris Nicholl and the alert and agile keeping of Tony Read.

Because of Nicholl's mastery, Cardiff lacked command in the air. True Bobby Woodruff and Brian Clark worked courageously and tirelessly, but they could not make the break through.

Protection

All the Cardiff forwards worked with energy, but the lack of a quick breaker was always apparent.

Peter King, Leighton Phillips and Clark all had shots charged down but the final cool touch of the maestro was missing.

Defensively, too, Cardiff could not be faulted. Don Murray, opposed to the most deadly striker in the Second Division in Malcolm MacDonald, yielded not an inch of ground and he was so magnificently supported by his colleagues that Jim Eadie had the fullest possible protection.

Even so he had to be ever alert against the quick-breaking and skilful Luton forwards.

MacDonald, despite the very close attention of Murray, got in a number of deadly accurate headers while Mike Keen and David Court were also frequently well on target.

On this form both sides must continue to be very much in the promotion race, and Luton in particular must have been very satisfied.

CARDIFF.—Eadie, Carver, Bell, Sutton, Murray, Harris, Gibson, Clark, Phillips, Woodruff, King. Sub: Bird.

LUTON.—Read, John Ryan, Bannister, Hoy, Nicholl, Slough, James Ryan, Keen, MacDonald, Court, Givens. Sub: Goodeve.