

LUTON CAN DO IT NOW

-THANK MAC

LUTON'S goal-grabber extraordinary Malcolm Macdonald has done it again—with his 20th goal of the season. 70/71 (FAC)

It made sure that Luton earned a Tuesday replay with Nottingham Forest. And the fans can thank their lucky stars that only one of these teams MIGHT grace Wembley '71.

For this match produced just about everything needed to ruin such an occasion.

The goal-posts collapsed after 35 minutes causing a 12-minute hold-up. Not what you'd expect on a First Division ground. But then there was nothing first class about this game.

The icy conditions admittedly didn't help the players but that was no excuse for the constant lack of constructive football.

Glorious

Luton did just about enough to deserve that replay. And super-Mac's goal was a classic example of the opportunism he shows. But earlier even he had succumbed to the low standard set by those all around him.

He missed a glorious chance from a John Ryan cross when he tried to shoot instead of meeting it with his head. He sent another right foot effort so wide that it went into touch.

Yet Forest never really looked like holding their early lead.

Peter Cormack gave one of his best displays for a long time but too often

lacked support. Even the gifted Ian Moore did not live up to his reputation.

It was Cormack's industry that kept Forest ticking for so long and his determination which gave them the lead.

His challenge for a Winfield free-kick took the ball away from Read and young McIntosh—in only his third game for Forest—pushed the ball home.

Cormack went close with a fine header before popping up at the other end to clear a Hoy effort off his own line.

Luton saw a Ryan shot also cleared of the line before Macdonald got the equaliser.

Jim Ryan did most of the work before crossing. Macdonald's shot was parried by Liam O'Kane—but the striker was agile and swift enough to reach the rebound to head past Jim Barron.

Macdonald was also involved when the posts collapsed. He raced on to a Chapman back pass and as

his effort hit the side netting Winfield raced back, tumbled into the net—and found it falling on top of him.

The players left the field while the ground staff carried out repairs. After this unscheduled stop Luton played some of the best football of the match.

They MUST be favourites to win on Tuesday, but I doubt if Forest will make the mistake of leaving out Ronnie Rees again.

When he came on as a substitute 15 minutes from the end to play as an orthodox winger, the Luton defence got into a few awkward spots. Read dropped one of Rees crosses and Luton were lucky that Bannister was there to stop Moore snatching the winner.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Barron 6; Hindley 6, Chapman 7, O'Kane 6, Winfield 6; Jackson 6, Lyons 6, Richardson (withdrawn) 5; McIntosh 6, *CORMACK 8, Moore 5. Sub.: Rees.

LUTON: Read 5; John Ryan 6, Nicholl 6, Slough 6, Bannister 6; *HOY 8, Court 7, Keen 6; Jim Ryan 6, Macdonald 7, Givens 6.

Ref.: H. New (Bristol) 6.