

Luton boss raps his worried men

Luton 1 Cardiff 1: by PHILIP OSBORN

LUTON MANAGER Harry Haslam angry with his men for letting Cardiff get away with a point, warned them last night: "I'm still thinking carefully about the team for next week." He explained later: "What annoyed me was the fact that we were well on top and then some of my players started worrying about our Cup tie at Bolton next Saturday.

"Because of this we were rubbish in the second half.

"I made it clear that this isn't the sort of attitude I expect—we've still an outside chance of promotion—and I told my players not to be too certain of their places in the team for next week."

Yet Cardiff thoroughly deserved their point, which provided a much-needed boost to their survival campaign, for the spirited way they recovered from a 12th-minute Luton goal—and a considerable pre-interval pounding.

And no-one deserved the equaliser more than Bobby Woodruff, recalled to the side after an indifferent spell.

Derek Hales, 19-year-old debut boy, shot Luton into the lead with an excellent example of reflex action. He headed a John Aston corner against the post and then, maintaining his balance brilliantly, drove home the rebound.

This sparked a spell of intense Luton pressure. Gordon Hindson was a skilful and effective linkman, and, with Barry Butlin constantly troubling Don Murray, Cardiff goalkeeper Bill Irwin was often in action.

LUCKY

Irwin made two good saves in quick succession, tipping a Butlin header over and then touching wide a Jim Ryan long drive.

But he was lucky when Butlin beat Murray yet again to head against a post. The ball rebounded to the ever-alert Hales. This time, though, the youngster blasted too high.

As Cardiff were pressed back, Fred Pethard, after a shaky opening on his first senior game since August, emerged as their best defender. Cardiff emerged full of fight for the second half, and were denied a penalty appeal in the 46th minute, when John Moore appeared to trip Billy Kellock.

Woodruff, who has twice come close to scoring earlier, underlined their revival by flicking home a 50th-minute equaliser after Andy McCulloch opened the Luton defence with a powerful header.

LUTON TOWN.—Carrick, John Ryan, Thomson, Slough, Garner, Moore, Jim Ryan, Hales, Butlin, Hindson, Aston. SUB: Busby.

CARDIFF CITY.—Irwin, Dwyer, Pethard, Phillips, Murray, Morgan, Kellock, McCulloch, Woodruff, Showers, Vincent. SUB: Rees.