

# Hales makes dream debut

By C. A. COUGHLIN

Luton 1, Cardiff 1 <sup>72/73</sup>

CARDIFF, desperate for their first away win of the season in their struggle against relegation, nearly got it at Kenilworth Road. Luton, whose outside hopes of promotion are fading, were good enough in the first 20 minutes to have won but by the end were fortunate to keep a point.

Cardiff, far too courageous and skilful to be facing demotion, should on this display avoid it. Woodruff gave Luton's young 'keeper Carrick, making his first senior appearance since September, two early frights with a header that went just wide and a shot he tipped over.

Then Hales, 19, Luton's new-comer from Southern League Dartford, made a dream debut with a goal after 11 minutes. Aston won a corner with a rocket drive that Irwin tipped round the post. From Aston's kick on the left, Butlin got a touch and Hales scored from about three yards.

He should have had a second eight minutes later when Butlin hit a post but Hales skied the ball over. The Cardiff defence weathered these onslaughts and gradually Vincent and Woodruff, well served from the back by Phillips and Bethard, switched the pressure to Luton.

Cardiff deserved their 50th minute equaliser. From a corner by Vincent on the left, McCulloch headed down to Woodruff, who flicked the ball in from close range. McCulloch could have done better when twice put clear. Cardiff dominated the second half though near the end Hales again got the ball in the net, only for a linesman to give Butlin offside.

**Luton:** Carrick; John Ryan, Thomson; Slough, Garner, Moore; James Ryan, Hales, Butlin, Hindson, Aston. Sub.: Busby.

**Cardiff:** Irwin; Dwyer, Pethard; Phillips, Murray, Morgan; Kellock, McCulloch, Woodruff, Showers, Vincent. Sub.: Rees.