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Brave Luton keep fighting

LUTON are clinging valiantly to First Division status. Manager Harry Haslam's programme notes conceded: "It looks as though we will go straight back into the Second Division."

But his men underlined their faith in the mathematical possibility of survival by roaring to their best win of the season.

This heartening performance, which followed the mid-week victory over Everton, was fashioned by the superb mid-field work of skipper Alan West, Peter Anderson, and Steve Litt.

They pressed hard for every loose ball and stretched the Leicester defence with shrewd long passes to both flanks.

Although Leicester — their safety was virtually assured — showed some polished touches in the opening stages, they disintegrated.

The way their players appeared to lose interest as

by PHILIP OSBORN
Luton 3 Leicester 0

they went into the second half 2—0 down explained why a team with such potential had been in so much trouble earlier in the season.

Luton's keenness demolished Leicester's composure. They repeatedly made progress down the left through John Aston and West.

Determined

And although England right-back Steve Whitworth was in determined form, the pressure told in the 23rd minute, when West broke quickly and crossed perfectly for Adrian Alston to head in.

Soon after, the ex-Australian World Cup player created a chance for Jimmy Husband. But Leicester 'keeper Mark Wallington scorched off his line to block the attempt.

A touch of arrogance from Keith Weller provided Luton

with a remarkable second goal in the 36th minute.

Helping his hard-pressed defence, Weller dribbled towards his line. Then, from about 20 yards, he curled a lob towards his own goal. Wallington was caught by surprise and the ball swerved into the net.

Leicester never looked like recovering. Their main hope was crossfield balls to Chris Garland on the right.

And the perception of West rewarded Luton again in the 77th minute. He sent Alston away and, although Wallington did well to block two efforts from the lanky striker, Husband followed up to jab in the second rebound and emphasise that Luton are still dreaming of First Division football next season.

LUTON. — Barber; Ryan (John), Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Litt, Ryan (Jim), Husband, Alston, West, Aston, Sub: Spiring.

LEICESTER. — Wallington; Whitworth, Rofe, Lee, Blockley, Cross, Weller, Sammels, Worthington, Birchenall, Garland, Sub: Earle.