

Now Luton must wait and pray

74/75

Luton 1 Manchester City 1 : by JOHN PRYCE

LUTON face an agonising wait to hear the result of tomorrow's Spurs-Leeds match before they know their fate in the relegation stakes. Manager Harry Haslam said: "We have done all we can. I still say we're too good to go down. We have to wait and see what happens on Monday."

"We met a skiful side today who have had some of the tension we have been under all season."

Luton kicked off to the strains of Land of Hope and Glory over the loudspeakers. But the 1812 overture would have been more appropriate when they equalised in the 72nd minute.

John Aston's corner was cleared by 'keeper Joe Corrigan to Jim Ryan, who lobbed the ball back into the net as defenders and attackers mounted a cavalry charge back towards goal.

This goal changed Ryan from villain to hero. He was responsible for City taking the lead in the 13th minute.

Dennis Tueart latched on to a poor back pass by Ryan and beat full-back Steve Buckley before slotting the ball past 'keeper Keith Barber as he came out to narrow the angle.

CHARACTER

It was a coolly-executed goal by Tueart, out of character with a game that showed more nerves than good football.

Four minutes after Tueart had scored City's goal Barney Daniels crashed the ball against the bar.

John Aston had two fine chances to sew the game up for Luton before they equalised. In the 56th minute he had been given a fine chnace when City defender Geoff Hammond back-headed a bal lto him, and three minutes later he completely miskicked a Jimmy Ryan centre.

Joe Corrigan, whose slip gave Luton the equaliser, can look back on a mixed day. He made some fine saves, none more so than when he brilliantly tipped the ball over the bar from a Jimmy Husband header in the first half.

Rodney Marsh, who was substituted by Gerry Keegan in the last few minutes, did not sit in the trainer's dug-out but with the fans on the touchline, and was rebuked by the referee for sitting in his Manchester City shirt. Marsh took it off and stayed in his seat.