

Blood, guts and still a chance

YOU would have thought Luton had won the FA Cup when Jim Ryan scored their equaliser yesterday, such sighs of relief did it bring from their relegation-fearful 20,768 supporters. At least Luton still have a hope of escape now, and only Coventry have beaten them at Kenilworth Road since the turn of the year in their brave efforts to avoid the drop.

Tueart had put Manchester City ahead with a solo goal after 13 minutes. Ryan rekindled Luton's hopes, which still depend on Spurs losing to Leeds tomorrow, with a cheeky lob over Corrigan's head after 72 frustrating minutes.

Luton Town		1
Manchester City		1

by John Ballantine

City were a far superior side with Colin Bell's pale genteel steel and sinew, the explosive Daniels and Hartford, and Rodney Marsh's blundering Bruce Forsyth humour. But they lost their early grip to Town's sheer blood-and-guts courage, which lasted for what by my watch were six extra minutes.

Luton began as if they meant to

take their postage stamp pitch and stick it smack in the middle of City's forehead. But the first real menace was seen in a 25 yard bullet free-kick from Oakes that was a close shave for Barber. Faulkner went up to show Luton's impotent strikers with a virile right-footer that brushed the crossbar.

Weather: fine. Ground: hard. Goals: Tueart (13min) 0-1, Jim Ryan (72 min) 1-1.

Luton (4-3-3): Barber: Ryan (John), Faulkner, Litt, (Sub King, 76 min), Buckley: Ryan (Jim), Anderson, West: Husband, Alston, Aston.

Manchester City (4-3-3): Corrigan: Hammond, Booth, Oakes, Donaghie: Bell, Doyle, Hartford; Marsh (sub Keegan, 80 mins), Daniels, Tueart.

Referee: D. Wallace (Crewe).