

LUTON FAIL TO PUT BACK EVEN THE CLOCK

By DEREK WILD

75/76

Luton 0 Bristol City 0

According to the Kenilworth Road clock, which registered 5.40 at the end of Saturday's match, British Summer Time has not yet ended at Luton.

Yet it could prove to be another winter of some discontent for Harry Haslam, their manager, if he cannot turn the clock back to produce the sort of form Luton were showing at the end of last season, when they only just lost their determined battle against relegation.

Luton's fans would no doubt like to hark back even further—to the days when the likes of Malcolm Macdonald, Don Givens or Vic Halom were regularly hammering home the goals.

And even Adrian Alston, sold for £24,000 only last week, slammed two and laid on another not 10 hours previously, to help Cardiff beat Chesterfield.

Lack of finish

As Mr Haslam said in Saturday's programme about his side's lack of finish: "This is one aspect of the game at Luton that I have been most concerned about."

The trouble is that, in moving Peter Anderson up front in an effort to recapture some sort of goal scoring blend, Luton have also lost out in midfield

But most of the action came in the last five minutes, apart from one John Aston shot bravely blocked on the line by Don Gillies. City's full-back was given the chance to cover the angle only by Jimmy Ryan's delaying his cross to Aston.

In the last five minutes, however, either side could have made up for their lack of penetration and negative back-passing earlier on.

Jimmy Husband, Luton's substitute, had a header brilliantly saved, Aston, who had a useful second half, saw a lob flicked over, and Andy King had a 35-yard shot turned away. At the other end, Clive Whitehead had a header saved.

All in all, though, it was not very inspiring. The match really did seem to be the 2½-hour affair the clock suggested.

Luton—Barber: John Ryan, Thomson, Chambers, Faulkner, Futchner, Jim Ryan (Husband 81min), King, Anderson, West, Aston.

Bristol City—Cashley, Gillies, Drysdale, Gow, Collier, Merrick, Tainton, Ritchie, Mann, Cheesley, Whitehead.