

Great defence held off Hull

75/76

A FIGHTING victory at Hull gave the Town a flying holiday start. Although the defence was pressurised in the second half as the home side fought for equality, the win was well deserved, and gave the Town their first double of the season.

Paul Futcher and John Faulkner were outstanding in a display which needed slogging hard work and and perseverance from every member of the side.

When Hull did threaten to break through, Keith Barber was a match for everything they could produce.

He more than made amends for his one vital error, which helped Hull equalise just after the interval.

The Town, direct and menacing as they built up moves from midfield, went into the lead when Alan West sent Steve Buckley away down the left wing, and Jim Husband cracked in a great goal from Buckley's cross.

Hull's forward threat disappeared early when full-back de Vries went off injured, and the defensive re-organisation forced Alf Wood to drop back.

But he raced forward to meet a long free kick, and Barber's attempt to fist the ball clear was beaten as Wood headed a picture goal.

The Town hit back with

HULL DETAILS

Brian Swain's

Verdict: ★★★★★

HULL CITY 1

LUTON TOWN 2

TOWN: Barber; John Ryan, Buckley, Faulkner, Paul Futcher; Chambers, King, West; Husband, Ron Futcher, Aston. Sub: Jim Ryan, not used.

GOALS: Husband for the Town, 24 minutes; Wood for Hull, 49 minutes; King for the Town, 56 minutes.

BOOKINGS: Ron Futcher for dissent; King for a foul on Greenwood.

one just as good, with West again the instigator. He fed John Aston, whose running and crosses caused problems all afternoon for the Hull defence, and Aston's centre was perfectly placed. King, unmarked, helped himself to a simple headed goal.

That left 35 minutes of nail-biting tension as Hull tried to get back, but for all their attacking they could not break through the Town's magnificent defence.