

Haslam's heroes tame Manchester aces—again

HEALE HORROR AS LUTON HOLD CITY

LUTON TOWN turned star-studded Manchester City into a bunch of sloggers last night as they recaptured their glorious League Cup form at Maine Road.

If it had not been for an incredible miss by 18-year-old Gary Heale, seconds from the end of normal time, Luton would today be facing a fourth round tie at Ipswich.

The game contained so many fantastic incidents it would need the Domesday book to record them all. But the biggest and most important is that Luton did enough to have won, particularly in the first half when a barrage of attacks left City reeling.

They made Tony Book's men look very ordinary as they achieved something that Liverpool, English and European champions, failed to do on Saturday — hold City to a draw on their own ground.

In the first game last week Luton showed that they could live with supposedly superior opposition. They did it again last night, and one wonders what they have to do now to collect their just rewards.

It is doubtful if they will see another match this season with so many missed chances. On a rain-lashed night players had difficulty keeping their feet and turning.

So did Leicester referee Roger Kirkpatrick, who twisted his ankle after ten minutes and was forced to go off despite treatment. The game was held up for ten minutes before the senior linesman took over in the middle after appeals for a substitute to replace him.

Superb

It could have been so different IF Heale had scored, and IF Peter Barnes's goal had counted or IF a Steve Buckley special had not been saved by big Joe Corrigan.

But this was a superb Luton display. City could not raise a decent run between them at the end.

Luton were never afraid to take the game to their opponents and, like so many of their games this season, they could have wrapped it up by half time.

In only the second minute, Buckley began the first phase of Luton's plan — the quick break from defence — with a fine pass to Ron Futchner who was just unable to control the ball.

The Luton striker had a splendid game, particularly in the air where his heading ability caused Booth all sorts of problems. After 25 minutes, City managed to block one of his efforts after Corrigan had

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tipped away a Lilly Fuccillo shot and pulled down Buckley's hard drive.

Heale also missed another chance when Ricky Hill supplied him with a fine pass after 30 minutes. Heale had space in the middle but shot wide.

Three minutes later, Barnes beat Aleksic with a low shot after a rare Luton mistake but substitute referee Fred Phipps disallowed it for a handling offence.

Ron Futchner kept up the work rate up front in the second half and almost embarrassed City by pouncing on a bad back pass.

Class

Jimmy Husband shot over, John Faulkner, who had policed Joe Royle most effectively, had a long shot tipped over — and so it went on.

But Luton also had their escapes and had to rely on Milija Aleksic to make several first class saves from Willy



■ Luton in the thick of the action again . . . this time holding off a challenge during one of many raids

MANCHESTER CITY 0, LUTON TOWN 0

By ERIC HARRIS

Donachie, Peter Barnes, Asa Hartford and Brian Kidd.

City's lament continued with a shot from Kenny Clements which would have knocked off a bobby's helmet near the corner flag if the Manchester policeman had not ducked.

But that incredible miss by Heale will linger in his mind for weeks. Mr Phipps was looking at his watch when Ron Futchner's low cross was palmed across the face of the goal by Corrigan.

With the giant goalkeeper committed to covering Futchner, Heale, standing

almost on the line, had only to tap the ball into the empty net.

But somehow Heale sliced wide with the City fans screaming in disbelief at the prospect of their team losing.

Control

But he should not be too disappointed. He was involved in a game where the men were tamed by the boys and Luton will play far worse and still win well.

But the Town badly need the ball control of Phil Boersma. If he had been available last night, and Luton

had taken their chances, they would have been through.

Paul Futchner must have made a big impression on watching England manager Ron Greenwood. Futchner was easily man of the match and pushed City's internationals well into the background.

Luton's biggest asset was their tight control at the back and in midfield. Faulkner and Paul Price passed fitness tests, although Book relegated Gary Owen to substitute and could not find a place for Dennis Tueart.

A delighted Harry Haslam said: "We showed our character again tonight, we have nothing to fear in the second replay."

Coach Roy McCrohan added: "The boys did Luton proud. The few fans who made the journey must have been really pleased."

Now it is Book who must lift his players for the replay. Luton played as though they wanted to win, although they almost lost it in extra time.

Aleksic tipped over a shot from Mike Channon, the only serious contribution from City's £300,000 plus signing.

Match details

MANCHESTER CITY: Corrigan, Clements, Donachie, Doyle, Booth, Kidd, Barnes, Channon, Royle, Hartford, Power. Sub: Owen.

LUTON TOWN: Aleksic, Price, Buckley, West, Faulkner, Futchner (P), Husband, Hill, Futchner (R), Fuccillo, Heale. Sub: Jones.

REFEREE: Mr R. Kirkpatrick (Leicester)

SUBSTITUTE REFEREE: Mr F. Phipps (Wirral).

ATTENDANCE: 28,000.