

TITLE DRIVE HIT BY DERBY BORE DRAW

DERBY 0 LUTON 0

8/82

LUTON TOWN manager David Pleat refused to show any sense of dismay as his side lost their accustomed position at the top of the Second Division.

Saturday's draw was the Hatters' fifth successive game without a win and enabled arch rivals Watford, 3-0 winners at home to Bolton, to sneak above them.

Despite the stutter that is preceding Luton's run-in to the championship Pleat maintained: "I was perfectly satisfied with an away point.

"We might have lost the leadership, but we do still have eight home games left to play.

"We have to try to forget the league table and concentrate on getting our game back together.

Luton played plenty of controlled football and generally enjoyed midfield control at the Baseball Ground, but could not translate that into the necessary incision near goal.

Pleat admitted: "Perhaps we were a bit too poised, playing with a bit too much rhythm. We tried to push it about like Liverpool but we did it before we got a goal.

MATCH



FOCUS

"But both sides played some good football. It was a very clean game and I don't think the crowd were too depressed by it all."

The gate of 15,836 was Derby's second biggest of the season. For most of them the main focus of interest was

THE TEAMS

DERBY: Banovic, Barton, Buckley, Skivington, Sheridan, McAlle, George, Attley, Wilson, Swindlehurst, Emson. Sub: Hector.
LUTON: Findlay, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Turner, Moss. Sub: Antic.



● Richard Money — good debut.

Charlie George's first home appearance since re-signing for Derby, but his contribution was minimal.

There was no evidence of the old George firepower and the Hatters gave him no opportunity to settle on the ball in midfield.

Far more effective in that department was Luton's Wayne Turner, just recalled from his long spell loan at Lincoln, where he was deployed at full-back.

His ball-winning qualities ensured Town's front runners enjoyed rather more of the ball than their Derby counterparts.

Brian Stein was involved in most of the better things produced by Luton and in the 13th minute his glancing header from Mal Donaghy's headed pass was cleared off the line by home skipper Steve Buckley, a former

Luton player.

Two minutes before the break Stein's header from David Moss' right wing corner caught Derby keeper Yakka Banovic off balance and he just managed to fist the ball away.

Luton's best chance in the second period fell to Turner, set up by Richard Money's thoughtful pass, but he pulled his shot inches wide of the far post.

Money, playing his first game since his loan signing from Liverpool, settled comfortably into his left-back role.

He was not extended defensively and his overlapping runs contributed regularly in attack.

Jake Findlay was seriously tested just once. In the 51st minute he catapulted himself to his right to push to safety a fiercely struck shot on the turn by Kevin Wilson.



● Above: Brian Stein poses problems for the Derby defence. Below: Ex-Hatter Steve Buckley clears his lines.

