

Oxford 1, Luton 1 ^{85/86}.

A LAST-MINUTE equaliser by the hard-working Trevor Hebbard salvaged a much-needed point for Oxford at the Manor Ground yesterday after Luton had seemed to be coasting to their second away league win of the season, writes Robert Alexander.

But in a match dominated by erratic refereeing and the joint dismissals of Oxford's leading scorer, Aldridge, and Luton's England under-21 defender, Mitchell Thomas, Hebbard's fine header was a rare array of skill on an afternoon of disappointing gloom.

The sendings-off of Aldridge and Thomas, for kicking one another in the view of a linesman, effectively killed the match as entertainment after only half an hour and left Oxford's third-best crowd of the season, 10,626, baffled and frustrated.

After enjoying the reliable bounce on their new artificial pitch, Luton seemed ill at ease on the uneven Oxford surface which resulted in a sequence of basic defensive errors after Stein had put them ahead in the 24th minute.

With more accurate finishing either side might have won as both Oxford's Phillips and Luton's Nwajiobi missed acceptable opportunities before Hebbard finally beat the impressive Sealey with his header from Rhoades-Brown's slanting right-wing cross.