

BATTLING POOL DOWN AND OUT

87/88 (FAC)

HARTLEPOOL UNITED'S F.A. Cup dream was shattered by a dominant second half performance from Luton Town this afternoon.

Andy Toman gave Pool some hope with a later goal but it proved too little too late.

There was good news for Pool before the kick-off when Rob McKinnon was ruled fit to start the game at left-back.

As expected, Tony Barratt returned to the defence with Dean Gibb adding extra weight up front, where Paul Baker and Robbie Whellans were leading the attack.

Luton were without former Manchester United utility man, Ashley Grimes, who failed a late fitness test on a suspect ankle.

With centre-forward Mick Harford out suspended, Luton shuffled the pack introducing Scottish winger Micky Weir up front.

With Luton having failed to sell their full quota of tickets, the official attendance was given as 6,056.

With the fans giving vociferous support, Pool started well winning a corner in the opening minute.

Honour's cross was met by Smith but the skipper's header was easily collected by Sealey.

Pool's first effort on goal came after 13 minutes from Gibb.

A long free kick from Haigh flicked off Foster but Gibb failed to test Sealey with a weak shot.

There were roars of disapproval on 17 minutes when Baker broke clear only for the linesman to flag late for off-side.

With Haigh marshalling the defence superbly, Pool were soon looking the more dangerous outfit.

There was a fine solo effort on 20 minutes when Honour curled a lovely cross in from the right and Whellans headed just wide from ten yards.

The Luton defence was obviously rattled by the Pool pressure.

HARTLEPOOL UTD.....	1
LUTON.....	2

By NEIL WATSON

McKinnon dribbled through the Luton defence and drove a left foot shot across the face of goal only to see the ball roll tantalisingly wide.

Luton almost took the lead against the run of play after 28 minutes.

The ball broke clear on the edge of the area to Allinson whose fierce shot was somehow headed over the bar by Smith.

Luton had the ball in the net two minutes from the break when Mark Stein forced the ball home only for the goal to be disallowed for pushing.

A minute later Luton again had the ball in the net, this time from Brian Stein, but once more the ref ruled it out.

They were two lucky breaks for Pool as both efforts looked legitimate goals. Half-time:

Pool.....	0
Luton Town.....	0

Confusion between Smith and Carr put Pool in trouble at the start of the second half when the skipper conceded a corner under no pressure.

The set piece resulted in a long scramble with McKinnon finally clearing the danger.

Luton then took the lead on 49 minutes after a fine move.

Foster delicately flicked the ball through to Wilson who in turn pushed the ball across the face of goal where **WEIR** had the simplest of chances.

A minute later it was almost two as Mark Stein's shot

In the 52nd minute Brian Stein had another good chance for Luton but wasted it with a shot over the bar.

With Luton getting well on top, Pool brought on John Tinkler in place of Dean Gibb after 58 minutes.

Luton continued to dominate however, with McDonagh having a good header saved by Carr.

A glimmer of a chance appeared for Pool when Toman pressed forward only to balloon his shot way over.

Baker then found space down the right but had his cross deflected straight to

TEAMS

POOL	LUTON
Carr	Sealey
Barratt	Breaker
McKinnon	Johnson
Nobbs	McDonough
Smith	Foster
Haigh	Donaghy
Honour	Wilson
Toman	Stein B
Baker	Weir
Whellans	Stein M
Gibb	Allinson
Subs: Tinkler	Subs: Black
Borthwick	Oldfield
Ref: Mr K. Broom	
(Liverpool).	

SCORERS

WEIR (Luton).....	49 mins
McDONAGH (Luton).....	76 mins
TOMAN (Pool).....	88 mins
Sealey.	

Pool had appeals for a penalty turned down after 71 minutes when Toman took a tumble, but the ref. was quick to wave play on.

But Luton hit back to add their second goal on 76 minutes.

McDONAGH hit a harmless looking shot from long range that evaded the diving Carr to nestle in the far corner of the net.

Pool fought back with Whelland closing down the right but the striker delayed his cross and lost the chance.

With Luton well on top, Brian Stein should have added a third but again could not find the target from ten yards.

Honour was booked with ten minutes remaining after an unnecessary confrontation with Wilson.

Pool pulled a goal back with just two minutes remaining when **TOMAN** converted from close range after a shot had deflected into his path.

But Luton were able to play out the remaining time to secure a well deserved win.

FULL TIME:	
HARTLEPOOL.....	1
LUTON.....	2



BRIAN HONOUR has trouble coping with the aerial power of the Luton men during a frantic first half at the Victoria Ground.