



COUNTY UNDER PRESSURE: Luton had little trouble disposing of First Division relegation candidates Notts County on Saturday by 2-0.

This was one of the attacks that failed: Steve Cherry gathers the ball before grounded Dwight Marshall can make contact, with John Taylor

the Luton striker on the right hoping in vain for a rebound. Full match report, and more pictures, in today's *Luton News and Dunstable Gazette*.

TOWN BATTLERS GIVE RIOCH'S MEN SCARE

WITH all their worries behind them — no fear of relegation and no chance of promotion — Luton Town turned in a gutsy performance at Burnden Park last night.

A couple of weeks ago Bolton were playing as runners-up in the Coca Cola Cup Final.

Today they are dreaming of being in the Premiership next season.

They may get there with last night's point taking them into second place in the First Division, but if Bolton are good enough for the top flight, what price the Hammers for a realistic promotion bid in 12 months time?

They were well worth their first away point of 1995, always the better footballing side against a team whose nerves were jangling.

And if the finishing had been a little sharper and at times a little luckier the promotion hopefuls would have been well beaten.

David Pleat rested leading scorer Dwight Marshall, who is carrying a shin injury. He stayed on the bench and Rob Matthews was brought in to play on the left side of a five man midfield.

The change did nothing to interrupt the flow of Luton's football and they should have had the points wrapped up in the first half. Bolton were nervous, and as they made mistakes their own crowd got on to them as they saw Luton's smooth passing outplay the home side.

Luton might have taken the lead after only two minutes after Matthews made a strong run down the left wing and was brought down by Scott Green. David Preece back-heeled a short free kick to Scott Oakes, and from his cross, Julian Japies, running in strongly on the blind side, powered in a header.

Goalkeeper Keith Branagan bundled it away for a corner with considerable difficulty.

**Bolton Wanderers 0
Luton Town 0**

Bolton were looking most uncomfortable when Luton men ran at them on the flanks and Alan Stubbs collected a third minute booking for bringing down Paul Telfer when the Luton midfielder looked as though he might create a chance for himself.

Looking calm and composed Luton restricted Bolton to a series of long ball attacks which came to nothing, with Trevor Peake outstanding as he marshalled the defence.

Matthews should have given Town the lead when left in the clear, with only the goalkeeper to beat, but Branagan made a very good save.

Only once in the first 45 minutes did Bolton threaten to unhinge the Luton defence. Just before the break Jason McAteer broke clear in the inside-left position but his finish was poor and Kelvin Davis, who is keeping American international Juergen Sommer out of the team, saved easily and confidently.

It was much more hectic at the other end and, from another cross by Telfer, Bolton's defence was all at sea and Taylor and Matthews both had shots charged down.

And Telfer himself almost broke the deadlock when he wriggled through a couple of desperate tackles before being swamped by desperate defenders as Bolton struggled to stay in the game.

The Hammers continued to look the more comfortable side in the second half.

Matthews shot over after forcing his way through to the edge of the penalty area.

Former Luton favourite, Bruce Rioch, now manager of Bolton, made a change the crowd was calling for the last 23 minutes.

He took off Fabian De Freitas, who had got

no change at all out of Peake and Marvin Johnson, and sent on John McGinlay to try to ginger up his attack.

"Super sub" shouted the home crowd, who had been surprised to see him dropped. But he wasn't, because Luton's control was hardly ever in doubt.

The Hammers made a double substitution for the last 20 minutes, with Des Linton replacing Julian James and Marshall going on for Matthews and the change almost brought immediate dividends.

Marshall surprised Bolton with his pace down the right wing and from his pulled back cross Telfer had a shot blocked and from the rebound Oakes fired in a drive which Branagan caught near the angle of post and bar.

In the last ten minutes Bolton tried desperately to step up a gear. Some physical battering ram stuff which left 18-year-old Davis needing treatment, but the youth team goalkeeper took everything Bolton could throw at him and only once was he in any real danger.

Luton have had a habit recently of conceding late goals and two minutes into stoppage time Bolton threw everyone into the penalty area and a header by Alan Thompson looked like another late heart breaker.

But 38 year old Captain Marvel Peake saw off the danger with a clearance off the line.

BOLTON WANDERERS: Branagan; Green, Seagraves, Stubbs, Phillips; McAteer, Snedker, Briggs, Thompson; Pastelainen, De Freitas. Subs: McGinlay (for De Freitas 67 minutes). Unused: Dreyer and goalkeeper Davison.

LUTON TOWN: Davis; James, Peake, Johnson, Harvey; Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Matthews; Taylor. Subs: Marshall (for Matthews 72 minutes), Linton (for James 72 minutes), goalkeeper Sommer.

Referee: Uriah Rennie of Sheffield.