## 'I'm not quitting as Hatters boss'

Bury 0 Luton Town 0 LENNIE Lawrence scotched rumours flying round the northwest that he had resigned manager Luton.

The uncertainty follows recent links between the Luton boss and 'Harry' Bassett, who, until this week, was going to take over at Maine Road.

Bassett talked to Lawrence about installing him as his number two at Manchester City, but in the end the Palace manager never went.

After yesterday's dour 0-0 draw, Lawrence told the Press: "I'm very close to Harry. We are good friends and I have spoken to him this week, but talk of resignations is really just that. I like Luton and they have been good to me and the last thing I will be doing is walking away from them."

## Report by PETE KENYON

Harry gone to City, who knows what might have happened?"

On the pitch Marvin Johnson cleared off the line to save a point for Hatters.

The villain of last week's match used his head and not his hands to clear the danger - and make up for the previous week's giveaway penalty.

But just how Mark Carter wasted the game's clearest chance only he will know.

With 55 minutes played Ronnie Jepson headed skywards into the six-yard box, a flying Ian Feuer sliced his attempted punch, his momentum taking him out of the action.

But with the goal at his mercy, and just four yards out, Carter's header went straight at the only man on the line – Johnson.

Twelve minutes later David Johnson, sporting a mini-pineapple haircut, blasted high over the bar after being put through by But he admitted: "Had Carter as Luton clung on.

But they only had themselves to blame - after failing to cash in on a wealth of first-half possession and then squandering a pair of good chances in the second period.

Bontcho Guentchev had a 20-yard volley turned away at full stretch by in-form Bury keeper Dean Kiely on 19 minutes, but in truth that was the only time either keeper was tested in a first half which saw Gary Waddock, Ceri Hughes and Andrew Fotiadis all booked.

Just after the hour Fotiadis burst clear down the inside left after an inch-perfect pass by Guentchev, but the 18-year-old's rifling shot was well save by Kiely just inside his near post.

Lawrence threw youngster Stuart Douglas on in place of the tiring Fotiadis with 22 minutes left, but he never got a chance to show his pace as the game petered out into a series of hit and hope long balls.

After the game Lawrence said he was happy with the way things had gone but admitted that fortune had favoured Luton.

"We lacked attacking punch but the back four did well. We were the better team in the first half but we couldn't transfer it into a

"This is a little step forward from a solid performance.

"We have stopped goals going in, which is the main thing after leaking far too many early on in the season.

"That was a professional performance. We have only conceded two goals now in the last five or six games during open play, which is heartening.

"Davis had his best game of the season but they all did well as a unit "



Action from Luton's game with Bury



