

HATTERS IN A BATTLE ROYAL

LUTON TOWN 2 BRISTOL CITY 2

MANAGER Lennie Lawrence took some of the blame after Luton Town dropped two much-needed home points in a humdinger of a match at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday. He admitted he got the team selection wrong.

He put things right at half-time by bringing back Paul McLaren and Dwight Marshall, for Gavin McGowan and Bontcho Guentchev. But he and the fans



By Brian Swain

had good cause to be relieved at the end of 90 hectic minutes as the Hatters fought back from two down, to stay in third place in the Second Division.

A win would have reclaimed second place, but it looked a very tall order after City snatched two goals in the first 40 minutes, and defended in great depth.

McGowan, on loan from Arsenal until the end of the season, slipped over to let in Paul Agostino after only three minutes, and Marvin Johnson's attempt to rectify it was a mistimed tackle.

Shaun Goater's penalty was blocked by Ian Feuer, but the Bristol man converted the rebound.

Luton were caught on the break again when Agostino scored on 40 minutes, but Steve Davis replied with a header in injury time at the

end of the first half.

Luton battered City in the second half, and Tony Thorpe, who was otherwise well marshalled by a five-man defence, headed his 27th goal of the season after 74 minutes.

David Oldfield had missed a great chance before then, but City, who gave Luton a 5-0 hiding at Ashton Gate in August, would have won if substitute Junior Bent's composure had matched his pace in the last minute. Feuer denied him in a one-on-one situation.

The result, said Lawrence, means that Luton must now win at Rotherham on Saturday, and at home to Wycombe on Tuesday.

It will be a right royal scrap for promotion for the rest of the season.

Julian James will return after suspension in place of McGowan at Millmoor.

Second Division leaders

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bury	38	20	10	8	70
Brentford	39	18	13	8	67
Luton Town	38	18	11	9	65
Stockport	36	17	11	8	62
Crewe	39	19	5	15	62
Watford	38	15	17	6	62
Burnley	40	17	9	14	60