

IT LOOKS LIKE THE PLAY-OFFS

BLACKPOOL 0 LUTON TOWN 0

MANAGER Lennie Lawrence watched Luton Town's run go to three matches without a win at Bloomfield Road on Tuesday night, and then admitted that automatic promotion back to the First Division is looking less and less likely.

The Division's top scorers

chose the wrong time to fire blanks, and mid-table Blackpool looked as likely as the Hatters to nick a win neither side really deserved.

And with Bury, Brentford and Stockport all on a roll, Luton, who led the table for a few days last month, are now back with the also-rans

scrapping for a place in the play-offs.

"We've a 90-per cent chance of that," said a manager hoping for a bit of a miracle to resurrect the title dream.

At least Luton showed more discipline at Blackpool than they did at Walsall, when they lost after taking a 2-1 lead early in the second half.

At Blackpool Steve Davis was magnificent in the centre of defence, but goalmouth excitement was a rare commodity.

Tony Thorpe missed an early chance for Luton and Tony Ellis did the same for the home side.

Steve Banks had to make the night's best save,

Brian Swain reports on Tuesday's Hatters match

to deny Andrew Fotiadis. The young striker came into the side, with David Olfield dropping into midfield to replace Graham Alexander, whose wife had just given birth to a baby boy.

Lawrence said Luton's current run of results did not add up to championship form, but added: "Three of our last four are at home, and if we win them all it could be interesting."

It should be next week: Luton are at home to relegation battlers Shrewsbury on Saturday, and then have the big one, against leaders Bury at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday.

Top of the Second Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bury	42	22	10	10	76
Brentford	42	20	14	8	74
Stockport	40	20	12	8	72
Luton Town	42	19	13	10	70
Crewe	42	21	5	16	68
Watford	42	16	18	8	66

(Not including Gillingham v Stockport last night).