

THE TITLE DREAM IS BURIED!

LUTON TOWN 0 BURY 0

THE HATTERS are one point away from being certainties to be in the Second Division promotion play-off lottery next month.

They are probably already there, but the dream of automatic promotion needs an unlikely combination of

results after leaders Bury added another unwelcome dent to Luton's home record on Tuesday evening.

One of the biggest crowds of the season came in hope of seeing Luton peg back the leaders and reclaim second place in the table.

Instead they were reduced to frustrated chants of 'Are you Watford in disguise?' as Bury swamped their penalty area with beefy big-booting defenders, and cared nothing about attacking.

They failed to have a single shot on target in 94 minutes — the extra was added on for their time-wasting — yet missed one of the clearest chances of the night when Luton were caught stretched and David Johnson shot over the bar as Julian James tackled him.

Bury bored everyone save their handful of supporters, who

Brian Swain reports on Tuesday's Hatters match

like the visiting team greeted the final whistle as though they had won the championship. They nearly have, which is a sad comment on Second Division soccer.

Luton boss Lennie Lawrence said he felt that recent faltering performances made the play-off safety net the only option for Luton's promotion drive.

"Bury's defending was infinitely better than our attacking," he said.

The need now is to retain the faltering hopes of second place with a win at Peterborough on Saturday.

Top of the Second Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bury	44	23	11	10	80
Stockport	43	21	12	10	75
Luton Town	44	20	14	10	74
Brentford	44	20	14	10	74
Crewe	44	22	6	16	72
Bristol City	43	19	10	14	67

Play-offs: May 11 Sixth v Third, Fifth v Fourth; May 14 Third v Sixth, Fourth v Fifth. Two winners meet in the final at Wembley on May 25.