

Thorpey is a saviour!

98/99

LUTON 1 CHESTERFIELD 0 By **DAVE FLETT**

TONY Thorpe scored his third goal in two games to give the Hatters victory against Chesterfield on Tuesday night.

Luton's on-loan striker fired Luton to safety at Notts County on Saturday with a lethal double strike and got the only goal of the game at Kenilworth Road in an end-of-season procession.

Hatters boss Lennie Lawrence must now wait and see whether the club's financial situation and Bristol City's intentions allow him to bring Thorpe on loan at the start of next season.

Lawrence started with an unchanged side from that which took three points at County.

But, in the early stages, the passion displayed by those players at Meadow Lane was never in evidence.

Both sides began at a pedestrian pace and gradually got slower in a dismal offering in the first period.

Chesterfield, now out of the play-off equation, had the better early chances.

Striker Marcus Ebdon sidefooted wide from 10 yards, Jonathan Howard sent a curling effort past an upright and Ebdon had a tame free-kick saved by Kelvin Davis.

Luton woke from their lethargy after the restart with Michael McIndoe going close twice.

The teenage Scotsman headed Willmott's deep cross over on 49 minutes and forced a fine save from Chesterfield keeper Billy Mercer

with a 20-yard low drive moments later.

Spring then had a viciously struck free-kick tipped over by Mercer before expertly setting up Thorpe's deadlock-breaking tap-in on 63 minutes with a skillful run into the penalty box.

Douglas scuffed his shot after Spring's pull-back but Thorpe reacted quickest to bundle the ball home from close range.

The Hatters continued to press for a second goal with Ray McKinnon's 30-yard attempt warming Mercer's hands.

At the back, determined performances from skipper Marvin Johnson and the composed Willmott kept Chesterfield at bay.



HIT-MAN Tony Thorpe nets his third goal in two games on Tuesday night.

Picture: JANE SHERLOCK