

Rochdale banks on keeper 01/02

A MATCH-WINNING performance by goalkeeper Steve Banks secured three points for Rochdale as they defeated 10-man Luton 1-0.

Banks made four vital stops to prevent a late equaliser after John Hollins' men got off to a flying start when Patrick McCourt fired them in front on 12 minutes.

But further attacking moves were hampered in an ill-tempered game that saw five bookings alone in the first half — three against Luton.

The visitors put Rochdale under pressure in the second half, but with further yellow cards being shown to both sides, it came as no surprise when former Rochdale defender Dave Bayliss, who had earlier been booked, was shown a straight red for a late challenge on Wayne Evans.

Luton boss Joe Kinnear has vowed to step up his bid to sign a striker following their defeat.

"There were goals there for us to take so we are crying out for a new striker," he said. "I have got to

Rochdale 1

Luton 0



go and buy one.

"We were camped in their half. I could have subbed the keeper and put someone else in and it would not have been effected.

"It was just one way traffic.

"The only player they had on the pitch was the goalkeeper. He made some crucial saves.

"I think we totally dominated the game, even with 10 men. But our finishing let us down. That was the biggest problem."

Rochdale manager John Hollins was delighted and declared: "It was one hell of a game.

"Patrick McCourt was a bit fortunate that the ball looped over the keeper after he hit it.

"But we needed a little bit of luck and it went our way.

"Luton put everything on to get a goal but Steve Banks was out of this world. He made three or four fantastic saves."