

# Point no good for either

02/03

## Luton o Tranmere o

**LUTON'S 10 men battled for a point in a goalless draw at home to Tranmere but the result dented the play-off aspirations of both sides.**

The hosts suffered a major blow when substitute Adrian Forbes was dismissed for violent conduct after a clash with Graham Allen on the half-hour, 15 minutes after he had replaced injured striker Tony Thorpe.

Luton still managed to create the better chances but failed to take them in a niggly match which was littered with fouls.

Ahmet Brkovic had an early shot saved by Russell Howarth while Sammy Igoe tested the Rovers goalkeeper with another effort shortly after Forbes' red card.

Howarth tipped Russell Perett's close-range effort around the post before the visitors finally threatened when Gary Jones' header was saved by Carl Emberson.

Gareth Roberts lashed a shot wide from 25 yards shortly after the interval while Iain Hume drilled a right foot shot over the crossbar.

Simon Haworth also went close for Tranmere but it was the home side who staged a grandstand finish.

Paul Hughes and Matt Spring were denied by good saves by Howarth and Sol Davis had a shot deflected inches wide as Tranmere came under increasing pressure in the closing stages.

Luton had two other players booked in addition to Forbes' dismissal while Shane Nicholson was shown a yellow card for Tranmere.

Luton boss Joe Kinnear insists his side still have an outside chance of making the play-offs.

He said: "It's disappointing that it looks as though we might not now make the play-offs but there is still a squeak of a chance and we're certainly not giving up yet, that's for sure.

"Tranmere hardly had a shot at goal. We murdered them even with 10 men but we couldn't find the goal our play deserved."

Rovers boss Ray Mathias was disappointed his side failed to break down the Hatters.

He said: "I'm disappointed with our lacklustre performance.

"It was poor. We needed someone to give us some inspiration but we didn't have that spark I was looking for.

"Against 10 men we needed to take the game to Luton but we didn't. Luton pressured us when we had the ball and we should have done much better.

"Perhaps there's a bit of tiredness creeping in.

"We're five points behind the top six with five games to go so we must keep going whatever happens.

"We are not out of it mathematically and we're not going to give up yet."