

Luton 0 Altrincham 0

CLOSING THE ANGLE: Keeper
Conrad Logan races out to meet
Alty striker Colin Little
PICTURE: Action Images



NOW FINISH THE JOB, ALTY

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(FAC)

By RICHARD ANDERSON

GRAHAM HEATHCOTE called on his battling part-timers to finish the job after they earned a replay with a hard-fought draw.

The Blue Square Premier side were never overawed by League Two opponents and could even have snatched a win.

Heathcote reckons the pressure is now all on Luton. "We've got a fantastic cup night set up and a good set of lads who will give me their all," he said.

"We've got a good history in the Cup and what I say to the players is make your own history, so that they can be talking about you in 20 years time saying you were part of that team.

"There's no way we can be favourite for the next game. They're a League team and we're part-timers - Warren Peyton had to shoot off to do a night shift!

"We've had a couple of injuries which is hard when you have an 18-man squad, but we've come away and done a good job.

"Our supporters were absolutely



MAN MARKING? Luton's Wayne Andrews keeps a tight grip on Anthony Danylyk

fantastic, they didn't stop singing and it really made a difference."

The Hatters were looking to put their league struggles aside, but were constantly frustrated.

Luton shaded a scrappy first half, and could have been in front within a minute, but Wayne Andrews blazed over from 12 yards.

The home side forced a string of corners early on, but Altrincham defended resolutely.

And it was Alty who should have

taken the lead on the half hour, when full-back Greg Young wasted a glorious chance.

Chris Senior latched on to a hopeful long ball, and pulled it back for Young who missed with the keeper in no-man's land.

Luton's best chance of the half fell to Paul McVeigh on the stroke of half-time, but he headed tamely at Andy Ralph from close range.

The second half was much the same as the first as Altrincham

MATCH STATS

LUTON v ALTRINCHAM

1 SHOTS ON TARGET 1

5 SHOTS OFF TARGET 3

6 CORNERS 2

2 OFFSIDE 3

7 FOULS CONCEDED 11

0 YELLOW CARDS 1

0 RED CARDS 0

STAR MAN: Keith Kean (Luton)

MATCH RATING: ★★★★★

continued to frustrate the restless home crowd.

And the visitors wasted another good opportunity on 53 minutes when Senior was denied by keeper Conrad Logan when clean through.

Both sides struggled to create clear cut chances, and the closest Luton came to grabbing the win came through an 80th minute free-kick after a 50-yard run from Michael Spillane was brought to a crashing end on the edge of the area.

Jake Howells' dangerous free-kick took a big deflection but ended up safely in the arms of keeper Andy Ralph.

Altrincham substitute Lee Elam was a constant nuisance for Luton's back four and it took a superb block from Keith Keane to deny him after a mazy dribble and shot from 18 yards.

Despite late pressure from the League side, Ralph was never seriously troubled as Altrincham held on for a replay in which they will undoubtedly fancy their chances of making a little bit of the history their manager once did.