Carruthers'

By Stuart Hammonds YORK moved a step closer to ending a six-year stay in Non-League, carrying out a cool, calculated job on Luton, only for their achievement to be overshadowed by post-match trouble. Chris Carruthers' follow-up finish two minutes after half-time doubled the advantage they held from the first leg, and booked them a promotion final date with the left-sider's old club,

It was no less than the Minstermen deserved, with resolute defending allied to the constant threat of 37-goal Richard Brodie and Michael Rankine ensuring that for the sixth time in eight years, the Conference's runners-up - Richard Money's Hatters - would not be promoted to the Foot-York manager Martin Foyle, who will also be up against a former employer at Wembley next week, considered it a job well done. "We were outstanding," he said. "Credit to the players. The most pleasing thing was that when we did get the goal, we changed around straight away and went 4-5-1 and they did exactly what I wanted them to do.

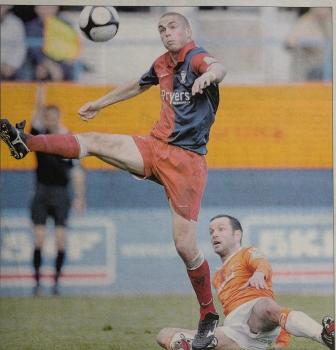
rebound puts them in the final

Oxford

there.

many good things.

CITY KEEP THEIR COOL TO END



JCATION SEES YORK TOP THE CLASS

IN GENERAL election week, 'Education, Education, Education' was once again the

order of the day. York boss Martin Foyle praised his players for listening, uton's Richard Money told his to look at their

opponents and learn, and Luton's fans needed teaching how

to behave.

VERDICT

Foyle has taught his side to play his way, often without wingers. Here, they took their time keeper Michael Ingham and left-back

James Meredith

especially - but what

team in their position

All their star turns -Ingham, Dave McGurk, Alex Lawless, Michael Rankine and Richard

Brodie - rose to the occasion. The supporting cast took centre stage, too, right-back Ben Purkiss fully justifying Foyle's recent preference to

Daniel Parslow on the bench and Meredith shackling Claude

Gnakpa. Midfield pair Levi Mackin and Neil Barrett out-Heslopped Simon Heslop, press ing high up the field before knitting play together when they

won the ball.

Luke Graham?

And what about

King's Lynn and then surplus to require-ments at Mansfield, but Graham has

This was the 11th time City had faced a top-ten club with the centre-back playing. It was their tenth clean sheet. Unsung, but definitely on

song!

found a home in York.

the goal it was a case of being dogged. "It was hard because I respect Luton, and I feel sorry for Richard because he's a friend of mine. I think they are, probably, the best side in the PICTURES: Action Images league football-wise and they are

as explained on the training pitch."

On facing Oxford, he said: "I don't

"We were organised, we worked

very hard and the players put their

bodies on the line. There were so

and it worked well. We were looking

for that first goal, and when we got

"We came here with a game plan,

think it was a case of whom we played

in the final, it was just a case of getting

09/10(00)

LUTON DREAM



WEMBLEY BOUND: York players celebrate at the end of the match

hard to play against. and we soaked everything up.

"Then we've got my front two, who are a right handful. They are prepared Rankine all threatened at the other to run the channels, and you don't see end before Carruthers was in the

many strikers doing that these days." ing the Hatters and one fine save from Rankine's low free-kick and when Michael Ingham, denying Kevin George Pilkington attempted to ised as they are capable of being. Gallen in the 22nd minute, apart, the scoop it clear, the ball cannoned off hosts never looked like scoring Carruthers and into the net. against City for the first time in four

attempts this season. When Luton got into good posi- trade," said ex-striker Foyle of defended with their lives."

tions, they found Dave McGurk in the Carruthers' following up. "It was important that we came form of his life, making block after here with a lead, and you could see block and, in the 77th minute, he that it gave us that bit of belief. showed a turn of pace and an impec-Pressure was on Luton to come at us cable timing to slide in on

clean-through Tom Craddock. Alex Lawless, Brodie - twice - and right place at the right time, 47 The game plan included frustrat- minutes in. Mark Tyler couldn't hold

> "They are doing what we tell them just couldn't get our shots off quickly on the training pitch - the tricks of the enough and in fairness to them, they

Luton boss Money reckoned Brodie's last-minute strike at Bootham Crescent won it. "I couldn't say too much after the game, but I genuinely felt that we needed to win at York to

change the complexion of the tie. "Coming off the pitch having conceded a goal at such a bad time, it gave them something to hang onto and it meant that they could come here and be as strong and as organ-

"I thought we played well first half and moved the ball really well, but

2 YELLOW CARDS 0 STAR MAN: Dave McGurk (York)
ATT: 9,871
ENTERTAINMENT: ***
REF RATING: Rob Lewis 7/10

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