

But Luton Are Smart, As Usual 55/56

BIRMINGHAM 0,
LUTON 0

BRAVE show, Luton! Despite the severe shaking, injuries too, they had received only a short time before the match when their coach crashed on the way to Birmingham, they were the better side.

From start to finish, with centre-forward Peter MacEwan suffering from a head injury, and winger Mike Cullen with a bandaged arm, they played cultured, well-ordered football.

Exceptionally strong in defence—Bud Aherne and half-backs Bob Morton and Sid Owens were in great form—they kept Birmingham's attack well in check.

Birmingham failed to produce much of the power and dash of their early games and, when they did get to grips with the Luton goal, they found Ron Baynham, the new international, in top form. His timing, anticipation and clean handling delighted the crowd.

Birmingham-born Ron proved how worthy he is of his England cap. He was supreme in the air and the only time he was beaten was in the 64th minute when Brown got the ball in the net but was ruled offside.

Luton were dangerous in menacing sharp bursts and their best marksman was Gordon Turner. With a little more luck he might have had a goal early on when Merrick badly fumbled a hard drive but just managed to fall on it in time.

Among missed chances were a Kinsley header turned over by Aherne, and a Govan shot deflected on to the post. But the miss of the match was a Govan mis-kick when only two yards out of goal.

Birmingham's strong point, as usual, was their defence, and that Luton were able to give it so much trouble was indication of the strength they succeeded in developing despite the coach mishap.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Blackpool	8	5	0	3	21	11	13
Charlton Ath. ..	9	4	2	3	16	16	11
Sunderland	7	5	2	0	24	16	10
Luton Town	8	4	2	2	13	11	10
W.B. ALBION	8	4	2	2	9	8	10
Manchester Utd.	9	4	3	2	16	15	10
Everton	9	4	3	2	12	12	10
WOLVES	7	4	2	1	26	9	9
Preston N.E.	9	4	4	1	19	14	9
Portsmouth	7	3	2	2	17	13	8
Newcastle Utd.	8	3	3	2	20	18	8
BIRMINGHAM	8	2	2	4	12	11	8
Manchester City	7	2	1	4	13	15	8
Bolton W.	7	3	3	1	14	11	7
Burnley	8	3	4	1	9	11	7
ASTON VILLA	8	1	2	5	8	13	7
Cardiff City	8	3	5	0	10	24	6
Sheffield United	8	2	5	1	10	15	5
Chelsea	8	1	4	3	9	15	5
Arsenal	8	1	4	3	10	17	5
Huddersfield	7	1	3	3	7	15	5
Tottenham	8	1	6	1	10	15	5



Up in the Luton goalmouth Peter Murphy leaps above colleague Eddie Brown to head towards goal. Close at hand are Len Boyd and two Luton defenders.



FOR THE RECORDS

BIRMINGHAM CITY .. 0
LUTON TOWN 0

BIRMINGHAM CITY:
Merrick; Hall, Badham;
Boyd, Newman, Warhurst;
Astall, Kinsey, Brown,
Murphy, Govan.

LUTON TOWN. — Bayn-
ham; Dunne, Aherne; Mor-
ton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen,
Turner, MacEwan, Cummins,
Adam.

Referee: J Powell, Mex-
borough. Attendance: 31,000.

Nearly no match at St. Andrew's

THERE was nearly no match at St. Andrew's this afternoon. Luton Town, making the journey from Bedfordshire by coach, were involved in an "accident" on the Southam to Daventry road ten miles from Warwick.

One of the passengers in the coach, describing the accident, said: "It all happened when our bus was overtaking a lorry."

"A sports car was coming in the other direction, round a slight bend."

"In trying to avoid a collision the coach driver swung to the nearside and the coach left the road."

He added that as the coach swung towards the ditch it struck a tree, which prevented it from overturning completely.

Winning hand

Right winger Mike Cullen said: "I was in the back of the bus playing cards with five others when the collision occurred."

"I had just got a winning hand. Peter MacEwan was playing with us and his head struck the top of the coach. He had a cut on his head, but it did not need stitches."

MacEwan said on arrival at St. Andrew's: "I have a thumping headache and I do not feel like playing, but I do not intend to let the side down."

At Luton, hasty arrangements were being made to fly up a reserve for MacEwan until he insisted on playing.

When the Luton team turned out at St. Andrew's as selected they were given a tremendous ovation by the crowd.