

BUSINESSLIKE LUTON ARE BOSSES IN MUD

By *FRANK BUTLER*

LUTON 5, WEST BROMWICH 1

LUTON TOWN really slammed tough and efficient West Bromwich Albion in the local mud. But if some West Bromwich players blame this whacking entirely on the mud, I politely beg to differ. Luton have been among the best footballing teams for the past few seasons. Yet seldom have I seen them in more businesslike mood.

West Bromwich had in Howe, Robson, Kevan, Allen and Barlow, five men who have worn England jerseys. And Maurice Setters was England's reserve against France last month.

In addition, Albion had not lost a match since Arsenal beat them in September. Yet there was never much doubt yesterday that their unbeaten run was to be ended.

And while I grant Albion looked unhappy as they slithered in the mud, credit cannot be taken from Luton's win. They were the bosses. It was men like Allan Brown, Turner, Pearce, Morton and new-comer Hawkes at left-back who impressed me particularly.

Luton deservedly took the lead after 26 minutes when right-winger Adam cracked the ball into the empty net after a Turner shot had rebounded.

Five minutes later Robson equalised. Griffin put the ball across, Allen let it go to Robson, and it was in the net.

Luton were playing too well to be held, and in four minutes Allan Brown went up to head in a perfect goal from an Adam cross. In yet another four minutes Turner cracked the ball into the back of the net.

Luton made it 4-1 almost on half-time when Pearce pushed the ball through. Centre-half Kennedy went for the ball, beating Brown by a split second, but with disastrous results. He turned it back to Sanders, but the Albion goalkeeper was surprised and made no attempt to save.

Luton's fifth goal 19 minutes after half-time was a beauty. Brown firmly held off a strong tackle and slipped a through ball to Turner, who went on and scored.