

Brown leads Luton to a wonder win

Luton 5, W.B.A. 1.

By MAURICE SMITH

THE initials W.B.A. stand for West Bromwich Albion. They could also stand for What Blinking-well Appened! For that is what championship challenging, cock-a-hoop West Bromwich were asking themselves after this shattering setback.

Their unbeaten away record had to go some time. They were prepared for that. What they hadn't expected was that it would go not with one bang but with FIVE.

These fleet-footed Luton forwards, cleverly taking a lead from West Brom's own effective long-passing game, broke the Albion defence—and that record—in one sweltering 19-minute spell of magic.

IT BEGAN in the 26th minute, when winger Jim Adam picked an inviting spot while 'keeper Sanders was lying helpless in the mud.

IT ENDED on the stroke of half-time, when Albion centre-half Joe Kennedy, trying to steer the ball away from make-do centre-forward Allan Brown, steered it instead into his own net.

In that 19-minute spell immediately before half-time, Luton had rattled in four great goals and paralysed Albion. The second half was mere formality.

Consolation — If Albion need one—is that "little," unfashionable Luton are fast becoming the giant-killers of Grade One soccer.

Credit—and this is to Albion's lasting credit—is that they insisted till the end in trying to play their own class of football—the top class.

Three stars

And Luton? Every straw hat in this town should be raised to them today. This was their finest hour. Every single Luton man-jack played his heart out but three in particular deserve mention in all despatches.

No. 1 was Allan Brown, the old warhorse from Blackpool, who has taken over the centre-forward position simply because it's the club's trouble spot.

Luton hero No. 2 was gangling John Groves, giving a near-classic centre-forward display.

And No. 3? Why, the new boy—left-back Ken Hawkes playing his first League.

That goal avalanche came like this: 26 mins., Adam; 30 mins., Robson (that made it 1—1); 34 mins., Brown; 36 mins., Turner; 45 mins., Kennedy's own goal. Turner shot the fifth in the 63rd min.

★ MERIT MARKS (max. 10 pts.).
—Luton 9, W.B.A. 8; referee, W. C. Taylor (Wiltshire), 10.