



With the goalmouth completely undefended, Robson scores for West Bromwich Albion in the match with Luton

## Fluke? No, Luton were superb

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Luton 5, W.B.A. 1: by GRAHAM BUXTON

**UNPREDICTABLE** Luton! They can be so brilliant, and so bad. This was one of their great days—so much so that they clearly humbled championship-chasing West Bromwich Albion.

There was no fluke about it. This was a triumph for pure football skill in conditions that did not help accuracy.

Luton, making a return to directness after weeks of weaving pretty patterns, had the tough, hard-tackling Albion defence reeling.

Give full credit to John Groves, the player some Luton fans seem to dislike.

The more discerning of this below-par attendance noted the way in which Groves distributed the ball, fought for it and generally fulfilled the role for which he was cast.

He did his midfield job so well that Allan Brown and Gordon Turner looked so much better.

And Turner emerged from this muddy battle head and shoulders above Bobby Robson and Derek Kevan, his rivals for the England inside right spot.

How the selectors can pass over this player, who is way out ahead as the leading inside forward marksman in the country, is a mystery.

Albion, unbeaten away from home before this debacle, started well enough. Even when Jimmy Adam, having his best game for Luton, scored after 25 minutes,

they hit back to equalise through Rooson four minutes later.

That was just about the beginning and end of Rooson's contribution, except for a shot straight at Baynham in the second half.

Luton reacted quickly to that equaliser, with Brown heading a brilliant goal after 32 minutes and Turner striding masterfully through a struggling defence three minutes later to crash the ball home.

After that, Albion scarcely had a look in. Their inside forwards were held by that fine Bob Morton-Sic Owen-Reg Pearce half-back line.

The West Bromwich defence was so harassed that a minute before half-time Kennedy put through his own goal as he tried to stop a dash by Brown.

So it went on. Luton kept the initiative with the quick accurate low pass.

Albion had a share of the second half play but their finishing was nothing more than pathetic.

They were lucky to escape conceding more than one more goal after the interval when Turner again stepped in to score.

Only Albion player to add to his reputation was England right-back Howe. The rest of the team collapsed like a pack of cards.