

TOO CLOSE, LUTON

LUTON 0,
BIRMINGHAM 1

BIRMINGHAM won more because of their extra physical strength than anything else.

Luton went like lambs to the slaughter by attempting close-passing on the mud—and that was just what the rough, tough, Birmingham defenders wanted.

Birmingham took a shock lead in four minutes when Neal shot through a crowd of players from the edge of the penalty area. It was an adequate commentary on the forward play that a half-back should be the only scorer.

In the first half it was nearly all Luton, thrown back continually by the solid barrier of Trevor Smith, Neal and Allen, with the capable Merrick collecting comfortably everything that came his way from the shot-shy Luton forwards.

Hard Tackles

Afterwards, with the pitch churned up into a thick mass of mud, the Luton forwards still tried to drag the ball through the mud.

Just one clear chance fell to Brown, who shot wide to complete a disastrous afternoon for him. The best shots of this shoddy second half came from Birmingham inside-right Gordon, who seemed to be the only player capable of moving the ball to any extent.

Birmingham were lucky to get away with both points but at least they played to a plan whereas Luton never seemed to have a plain idea where they were going.