

McBride tries—but no one helps him

59/60

Luton 0, West Bromwich 0 : by GRAHAM BUXTON

THERE were 10 forwards on view—yet only two were effective. The odd two were Billy Bingham and Joe McBride, both of Luton. Throughout the season Bingham has been trying bravely to do his own work—and that of others as well.

McBride weaved, feinted, and worked with tremendous enthusiasm but he sadly lacked support from his inside colleagues.

John Groves, target for some barracking from the crowd, was much too slow, and Luton's outside-left problem was emphasised only too plainly by the poor performance of former amateur international Mike Tracey, who was no match for England right back Don Howe.

Watched by England team manager Walter Winterbottom, Howe consolidated his place in the England team but Derek Kevan did nothing to increase his claims for a recall to the side.

Best shot of the match came just on half-time from Ronnie Allen. Ron Baynham produced almost the only thrill of this drab game with a great diving save. Other than that, Baynham and Albion goalkeeper Jock Wallace had an easy afternoon, as many attacks fizzled out on the edge of the penalty area.

Luton had no complaints about their defenders, because Dave Pacey, converted into a centre half, was their outstanding player, and Bob Morton and Allan Brown effectively blotted out Albion's inside men.

Part of Luton's trouble was over-anxiety, a thing they must rid themselves of if they are to avoid relegation. This looks unlikely unless some spark of genius is found in attack and someone with the ability to hold the ball intelligently is put in.

Albion seemed to have that end-of-season feline attack, but they had some excuse because Andy Aitken was limping throughout the second half.

Their defence covered well and tackled hard with Howe, Joe Kennedy, and Bobby Robson outstanding. But, apart from a few flashes by Allen, Albion's attack was poor.