



● It's a goal! White-shirted Luton forwards Cummins, McBride, and Noake turn away in triumph while Newcastle defenders appeal unsuccessfully for offside against scorer Billy Bingham at St. James' Park.

Bingham brilliant but Luton slide

Newcastle 3 Luton 2: by BILL STEPHENS

LUTON, a goal down in two minutes and playing with only four effective forwards for more than an hour, with the injured 'inside-right' Turner moving to the wing, gave a gallant display and never stopped trying to earn valuable points in their battle against relegation.

But, after an extremely hard exhibition incidentally coupled with some sound football both in attack and defence, they had to acknowledge defeat to a Newcastle side which had its good moments as well as bad.

One consolation to the losing side is that they had the personality of the match in the brilliance of Billy Bingham.

The Irish international winger never spared himself and he played himself into the ground to bring about a victory. But his tremendous work was in vain.

The Newcastle player who took the eye was veteran Bobby Mitchell and it was a pleasure to see his immaculate ball distribution.

The home leader White was little behind even though faced with a capable centre half in Dave Pacey.

The game opened in dramatic fashion with Newcastle scoring in the second minute. Left-half Mitchell made the goal when he placed a superb pass to White who

cleverly beat the competent Baynham.

In the 13th minute Luton equalised with a wonder goal. Keith was adjudged to have fouled Noakes and from the free kick Hawkes placed the ball into the goalmouth and Bingham, racing up, headed in superbly.

But 14 minutes later United were again in the lead and it was again the Mitchell-White partnership.

The wing half gave the final pass to White who easily beat the Luton goalkeeper. The movement which led to this goal was initiated by young Mitten.

Two minutes after the restart Bingham equalised with another great effort and this success gave new heart to the gallant Luton side.

But their fate was sealed 10 minutes from time when Eastham scored with a wonder shot.

Despite this reverse Luton fought back well and continuation of this form may yet save the side from relegation.