

LUTON KEEP BALL MOVING DESPITE HEAVY PRESSURE

By DENIS LOWE

Port Vale 1

Luton 0

ALTHOUGH always under heavy fire from the Port Vale attack Luton moved the ball brightly throughout this match at Burslem.

The deciding, and only, goal came in the last minute of the opening half when Rawlings, a close-season signing from Walsall, scored.

After Baynham, the former England 'keeper, had made magnificent saves from almost every member of the Vale attack, and in particular, Rowland, Harkin and Cheesebrough, the Potteries side scored from Rowland's right-wing corner.

Rawlings met the centre perfectly with his head, the ball entering the top of the Luton net despite the joint attempt of Baynham and Bramwell to intervene.

Fincham's 35-yds drive

Hancock in the Vale goal was almost surprised by a 35-yds drive from Fincham, the centre half. Luton's only other reasonable attempt of the half was a 20-yds shot from Pacey, after MacKechnie had neatly flicked a free-kick to one side.

Luton's attack was seen to better advantage after the interval when Vale's raids became listless and uninspired against a sound defence in which Fincham was in commanding form.

Salisbury, Luton's liveliest forward, almost equalised when Hancock saved with his legs and Jardine twice went close in the closing minutes. As it was, however, Vale came nearest, Morton clearing off the line from Rowland's low header.

Port Vale.—Hancock (K.); Qualley, Sproson; Rawlings, Nicholson, Miles; Rowland, Steele, Harkin, Cheesebrough, Smith.

Luton.—Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, Lownds; Fairchild, Salisbury, McKechnie, Weir, Jardine.