

Starling dive saves Luton

Halifax 0, Luton 0

LUTON won a valuable promotion point in a game which did not reach a high standard until the closing stages. Doubtless this was due to the fact that they must at all costs avoid defeat.

From the start they put up a strong and uncompromising defence Branston and Moore covered the middle efficiently, and the Halifax wingmen found Ryan and Bannister hard to beat.

Luton's advantage lay in their superior skill in building up attacks in mid field with Slough and Keen the chief schemers, and they had a potential match winner in McDonald. He frequently broke clear of Pickering but on one occasion was foiled by Smith who left his penalty area to make a full-back's clearance after a collision with the Luton centre forward.

Phillips meanwhile had been brought on as substitute for Harrison and it seemed as if Luton had the goal they so badly needed when Collins whipped in a flying shot from 20 yards but Smith expertly turned the ball over the bar.

Halifax rallied in the closing stages and almost snatched a winner when Atkins their most dangerous forward drove hard from 18 yards. Starling who never made a semblance of a mistake dived across goal to make the save of the match.

Luton deserved their point but with more punch in front of goal would have had two.

Halifax: Smith; Burgin, Lee; Shawcross. Pickering, Wallace; Chadwick, Robertson, Brierley, Atkins, McCarthy.
Luton: Starling; Ryan, Bannister; Slough, Branston, Moore; Collins, Busby, McDonald, Keen, Harrison. Sub.: Phillips.

Referee: W. S. Castle (Sedgeley).