

BIRMINGHAM RUN HALTED BY LUTON

By JOHN MOXLEY

Luton ... 3 Birmingham ... 2

LUTON TOWN seemed destined to become another of Birmingham City's victims when they fell two goals behind after only 22 minutes at Kenilworth Road.

But with great character and drive they kept their own promotion flame burning and brought Birmingham's runaway progress up the table to a full stop.

There could be no complaints from Birmingham. Their early goals, from Latchford and Summerill, both came against the run of play.

In trouble

Luton were the stronger side in every respect. From the moment Macdonald nodded on a long goal clearance by Read for Busby to surge between two defenders to make it 2-1 after 36 minutes, there was little doubt that Birmingham were in trouble.

Macdonald and Busby were also involved in the equaliser which came at the right moment, just two minutes before half-time. Macdonald shot goalwards after a Ryan free kick and Busby stabbed out the foot which was enough to divert it past Kelly.

When Slough fired home a 25-yard free kick with the assistance of a strong wind just three minutes into the second half, Birmingham must have realised their first League defeat since November was staring them in the face.

Luton Town.—Read; Ryan (John), Slough, Givens, Nicholl, Moore, Ryan (Jimmy), Busby, Macdonald, Keen, Anderson.

Birmingham City.—Kelly; Martin, Page, Smith, Hynd, Robinson, Campbell, Francis, Latchford, Summerill, Taylor.