

THE DRAW KINGS DO IT YET AGAIN

LUTON 0 BIRMINGHAM 0 71/72

LUTON, fast becoming the Treble Chance Kings, drew again this afternoon. A lively Birmingham side held them to a goalless draw at Kenilworth Road.

The Town set up some great attacks — and there were some spectacular goalmouth scrambles — but they still couldn't find the killer touch.

Today was debut day for big Vic Halom, the centre-forward Luton bought during the week for £30,000 from Fulham.

Robin Wainwright had to stand down but manager Alec Stock has indicated it won't be long before this youngster is back in the first team.

Apart from the inclusion of David Court as substitute in place of Jimmy Ryan, this was the only change in the Luton side.

Birmingham were not so lucky. Dave Latchford came in for his second game of the season in place of the injured Kelly, and Garry Robinson was also turning out for the second time.

Stampede

Manager Fred Goodwin named Phil Summerill, who has been off form recently, as substitute to make way for 17-year-old Steve Phillips to play his first full game in the Football League.

Birmingham brought a large following with them and there was a stampede of their fans across the Kenilworth Road corner before the start. Several were evicted by the police. And as the rival factions taunted each other there were scuffles near the players' entrance.

Birmingham were the first to take the initiative. Campbell and Phillips combined to get the ball into the goalmouth and Read had to make a smart catch over the head of centre-forward Bob Latchford, brother of goalkeeper Dave.

Birmingham got back into the Luton penalty box via two free kicks and as soon as Francis got near the ball there was a huge roar of anticipation from the Birmingham fans. But Moore cleared the danger.

Mistake

By
ROGER DUCKWORTH

Busby forced the Birmingham keeper to tip the ball over. But the second corner was easily cleared.

The referee had to call for another ball when the original one landed on the television platform high in the main stand — and stayed there.

Hard work by Slough and Busby produced a fierce shot from John Ryan but it was blocked en route for goal.

Referee James, who had no bookings to his name so far this season, gave Birmingham skipper Martin a lecture after a hard tackle from behind had felled Busby. But he did not produce his book.

With Birmingham marking tightly in midfield Luton found it difficult to swing the ball about. They were also taking time, understandably, to get used to their new forward — and he to them.

The best shot of the match so far came in the 25th minute. Busby controlled a throw-in by Givens and cracked the ball at goal to bring an agile save out of Latchford.

Then a smart move by Anderson — he flicked the ball through Martin's legs, raced round, jumped over a sliding tackle from Hynd and cut free for goal — brought more excitement for the Luton fans. But his cross was just wide of Halom and went out of play.

Confidence

Luton were now playing with more confidence and beginning to spread the Birmingham defence.

At the other end Bob Latchford was responsible for another incredible miss. He was unmarked when Phillips flicked the ball over the Luton defence right to his feet. But somehow he lobbed it over the bar when it would have been



Slough, left, ploughs in to help Busby out of a tight spot

MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

Luton Town: Read; John Ryan, Shanks; Keen, Nicholl, Moore; Busby, Slough, Halom, Givens, Anderson. Sub: Court.

Birmingham City: Latchford (D); Martin, Pendrey; Smith, Hynd, Robinson; Campbell, Francis, Latchford (B), Page, Phillips. Sub: Summerill.

Referee: Mr V. James (York)
Attendance: 14,678