

Halom can't cure Luton

Luton 0, Birmingham 0

By BILL EDWARDS

NOBODY was booked. And that was the only good thing about this dreary draw. Perhaps they were all a little too much on their best behaviour, for there was little spark from either side.

The edge, if anything, was with Luton for their second-half display, but their midfield work was wasted by lack of finish.

This has been their trouble all season and the mid-week signing of £30,000 Vic Halom from Fulham made little difference. He did plenty of running, but little more.

Halom might claim he was robbed of a goal when Anderson helped his header, which looked to be going into the net, over the bar.

But Halom should have scored later. He was put clear by Busby, only to have his shot blocked by goalkeeper Dave Latchford.

Good start

Birmingham also had a new boy in 17-year-old Steve Phillips, who must surely be a little more pleased with his debut than Halom.

Phillips worked hard, but like that other 17-year-old, Trevor Francis, got little change out of the Luton defence, where Shanks and Ryan were in command.

Ryan, who kept a close watch on Phillips, combined defence with attack with a couple of good breakaways. He went close with one effort which slipped through Latchford's hands but rolled for a corner.

LUTON: Read 6 — Ryan 6, Moore 5, Nicholl 6, *SHANKS 7 — Slough 5, Keen 5, Givers 6 — Busby 6, Halom 5, Anderson 6.

BIRMINGHAM: Latchford (D) 6 — Martin 6, *HYND 7, Robinson 6, Pendrey 5 — Smith 5, Page 5, Campbell 6 — Francis 5, Latchford (B) 5, Phillips 6.

Referee: V. James (York) 7.