

WEST HAM PUSH BACK REVIVED LUTON

By ROBERT OXBY

West Ham 2

Luton 1

LUTON, conceding a goal to Hurst after 90 seconds and another to Best 24 minutes later, came back from the dead at Upton Park and showed such fierce spirit that they were unlucky not to earn a replay in this almost perfect Cup-tie.

Played with fiery enthusiasm, there were enough incidents to fill half-a-dozen matches. There was also a classic example of Bobby Moore's aplomb in the face of apparent disaster.

Having collapsed in agony with a bruised ankle nerve in the eighth minute he was borne away regally on a stretcher. Ignoring the press of photographers he leaned on an elbow and coolly watched the play. The picture would have been completed by a bunch of grapes and a bearer with a fan.

Moore was replaced by Eustace, who made a good job of an unfamiliar defensive position. He and Taylor played superbly as Luton finally forget their nerves and showed the controlled football of which they are capable.

Earlier, they were saved from humiliation by the impeccable Nicholl, who often found himself facing Hurst and Best alone. He also caused considerable havoc in the home penalty area.

West Ham's opening goal was finely executed, Hurst heading Brooking's centre against the underside of the bar. In the 26th

minute Read could only push out Hurst's shot to Best and United were two up.

Luton weathered a gruelling period at the start of the second half, and in the 52nd minute were set alight as Givens headed a goal from a centre by the dangerous Hindson. Suddenly the pattern had changed completely.

Read saved brilliantly from Hurst's penalty, and feeling inviolate Luton swarmed to the attack. Hindson struck the bar in the 79th minute and Ferguson made several splendid saves before Redknapp, hitting a post, reminded us that West Ham were still a potent force.

West Ham Utd.—Ferguson; McDowell, Lampard, Bonds, Taylor, Moore, R (Sub, Eustace 8min), Redknapp, Best, Hurst, Brooking, Robson.

Luton Town — Read; Ryan (John), Slough, Keen, Nicholl, Moore, J., Anderson, Court, Halom, Givens, Hindson.