

Luton's misery 71/72

BIRMINGHAM 1, LUTON 0

A LAST-MINUTE goal by Bob Hatton kept Birmingham's promotion dream alive.

Luton seemed intent on doing no more than putting Soccer out of business as an entertainment. Playing for the point is one thing, but doing it with blatant kick-anywhere tactics is sheer nonsense.

As Luton manager Alec Stock left the pitch he was involved in a shouting match with Birmingham's angry fans, and called the police to calm them down.

Luton never had more than two men in attack, and seemed to consider two a luxury not to be enjoyed too often.

A Francis miss from close range and a Hatton shot that hit a post were the only times Birmingham seemed likely to make the most of their total dominance.

But when Birmingham finally got the idea that it was now or never, not even Luton's tactics could save them.

Pendrey mis-hit a shot that ballooned into the goalmouth, where Latchford headed the ball down and Hatton scored from a foot out.

BIRMINGHAM: Latchford (D) 7—Page 7, Hynd 7, Harland 6, Pendrey 5—Smith 7, Campbell 6, Taylor 5—*FRANCIS 8, Latchford (R) 6, Hatton 6.

LUTON: *BARBER 8—Ryan (John) 7, Garner 6, Slough 6, Shanks 6—Ryan (James) 5, Keen 6, Court 5, Givens 5—Busby 5, Anderson 6.

Ref.: H. Williams (Sheffield) 6.