

STOKOE BOYS CAN

SOCCER HIGH COURT



Today's
verdict by
**NOBBY
STILES**



■ THE SUN'S High Court is in session again to consider the FA Cup clash between Sunderland and Luton at Roker Park on Saturday.

NOBBY STILES, that old England Warrior, is in the chair weighing up the chances of these Second Division quarter-final survivors. He clarifies the issues and gives Sunderland the verdict.

FOR THE so-called lesser game of the sixth round, there's an awful lot to like about the Sunderland-Luton tie.

Both sides play exciting football with Sunderland perhaps the more predictable attacking outfit and Luton a shade craftier, a team at their most dangerous when they are counter-punching.

If Sunderland commit themselves too completely to going forward they will find Luton ready to exploit any gaps.

Harry Haslam's team proved against Middlesbrough and Newcastle that they can break quickly and make the most of their chances.

But there's nothing harder to beat than a

North East team with the crowd right behind it.

Bob Stokoe has got his side believing in themselves and the arrival of Guthrie and Halom has given the team a better-balanced look.

They will obviously go at their opponents hard from the start and the game could be over for Luton if Sunderland get

a quick goal. Still, the longer the game goes without a goal, the more dangerous Luton will be.

But I think Sunderland will do enough early on to give Luton little chance of really getting into the game. I'm taking Stokoe's opening burst to pay off with a final score of 3-1.

INTERVIEW: Bob Cass

GRAB IT

But Luton break out quickly

SUNDERLAND v LUTON .. ratings out of 10



Montgomery (9) v Carrick (7)

MONTGOMERY is a superb keeper who deserves better recognition. His reflexes are tremendous and his experience will be invaluable. Carrick is brave, has good positional sense, but tends to let concentration slip.



Hughes (9) v Jim Ryan (8)

IN RECENT games Hughes has been a revelation. His skill and goals were a key factor in the previous round. Jimmy Ryan, a player with tremendous ability, would be even better if he realised just how good he is.



Malone (7) v Shanks (8)

FOR A big man Malone has very good control. His biggest asset is his willingness to help the attack, but he leaves himself open a little at the back. Shanks is a strong defender who also likes to press forward.



Kerr (8) v John Ryan (9)

FOR A little bloke Kerr gets through a great deal of work and his determination rubs off on his mates. John Ryan is fast and important in Luton's plan to switch quickly from defence into attack.



Guthrie (8) v Thomson (8)

THERE haven't been many better bargains than Guthrie who looked a real gutsy full-back against Middlesbrough and Manchester City. Thomson, a former international team-mate of mine, is a similar type.



Halom (8) v Busby (8)

HALOM'S arrival has helped Watson to settle at No. 5. The former Luton striker will be out to do well, and his strong shot could spell trouble. Busby has been unlucky with injuries but has the knack of being in the right place.



Horswill (9) v Slough (8)

YOUNG Horswill is going to be a very good player. His midfield work-rate is fantastic and he is also eager to shoot. Slough is also a useful midfield attacker and can be just as effective in defensive situations.



Porterfield (8) v Hindson (8)

FOR STYLE Porterfield takes some beating. On top form he can tear any defence apart. Hindson, playing in his native area, will be as determined as anyone. This former Newcastle player has pace and a lot of ability.



Watson (10) v Garner (8)

WATSON is the man Luton must overcome and I think they will find it tough. He gets everything in the air and is a good tackler. Garner, tall and strong, also takes a lot of getting past. He is the better ball-player.



Tueart (9) v Aston (9)

TUEART and Aston are completely different except in front of goal—they can both stick the ball in. Tueart, more aggressive, likes nothing better than to take on a defence. Aston is faster, more deceptive, extremely cool.



Young (8) v Moore (8)

INJURY kept Young out of the City game, but his experience could give him the edge over rival Pitt. Moore, one of Luton's real stalwarts, is a determined player who will still be going at the end.



Chambers (8) v Anderson (8)

TWO extremely capable substitutes. Anderson is far too good to be on the bench. My guess is that Harry Haslam will find a Cup place for this fiercely competitive midfield player.

