

LUTON'S HORN STOOPS TO CONQUER ITALIANS

By DAVID MILLER

72/73 (AIC)

Luton 1 Fiorentina 0

A RAIN-SWEPT evening, punches flying at the final whistle and a minimum admission of 60p will hardly have persuaded the 2,742 fans at Kenilworth Road that the Anglo-Italian competition has a bright future. Luton's victory keeps alive their chance of appearing in the semi-final, though even one serious injury would make their participation a self-defeating exercise.

Fiorentina's passing was good, but their tactics were less than entertaining — and such a performance can only devalue their appearance in England in something more important on another occasion.

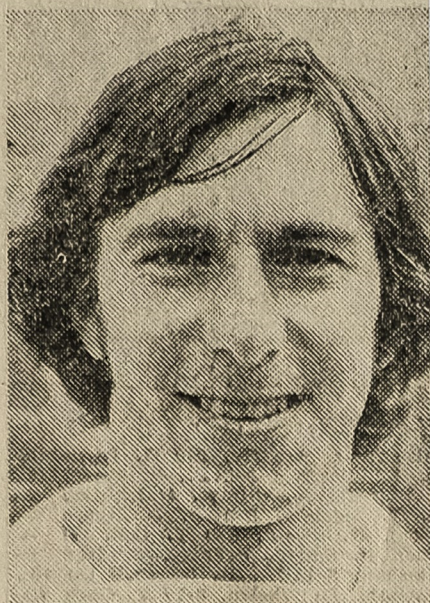
Luton, in their new liquorice-allsorts colours of orange, black and white, always dominated the match, in both spirit and ideas. But they had to be grateful to their goalkeeper, Horn, for several notable saves.

Late in the first-half and early in the second, Horn got down well to fierce free kicks by Sormani and then Merlo. In the last quarter-of-an-hour, he was perfectly positioned to frustrate Saltutti and then Sormani, who failed to score from only eight yards.

The decisive goal came a few minutes before half-time when Hindson cut through on the left and scored with a first-time shot that was going away from Favaro into the corner from the moment it left his foot. Moments later, French missed an easy one and in the second-half, Brizi cleared off the line from Aston.

Luton.—Horn; Shanks, Thomson, Faulkner, Goodeve, Jim Ryan, Anderson, French, Hindson, Fern, Aston (John Ryan 82 mins).

Fiorentina.—Favaro; Galdolo, Longoni, Scala, Brizi, Perego, Sormani, Merlo, Clerici (Antononi 29 mins), De Sisti, Saltutti.



Hindson, the Luton striker, whose first-half goal kept alive his team's hopes of a semi-final place in the Anglo-Italian tournament.