

Anderson so nearly forces vital slip

Luton 0 Aston Villa 0: by SYDNEY SPICER

JUST ABOUT the best move in a frustrating game was a swift and simple one which Luton's Peter Anderson made in midfield. He released a precise 30-yard ball which caught Villa's defence.

John Robson, under pressure from Viv Busby, would have conceded an "own goal" but for 'keeper Jim Cumbes's full-length dive to turn aside the defender's hurried back pass.

Such an incisive thrust was all too rare in this untidy midfield scramble.

That near thing for Robson and Villa came in the opening half, soon after Chico Hamilton had forced Keith Barber, in Luton's goal, to a full-length save of a low drive from 20 yards.

Subsequently neither goal-keeper was stretched to quite the same extent, but Luton had more on-target shots and near misses than Villa.



Busy Graham French, most persistent of the forwards on either side, crashed a drive against a post in the second half. And Gordon Hindson had Cumbes saving with some difficulty a fierce one from just outside the box.

Villa had little to offer apart from a couple of efforts by Brian Little.

The flowing move and the slick build-up were missing at both ends. Anything promising usually broke down in the box with one pass too many.

Former Luton centre half Chris Nicholl kept a tight grip on his old team-mate Busby, but Neil Rioch, another ex-Luton player, had to struggle more than a little in a game which had "end - of - the - season" stamped all over it.

Robson was booked for a foul on French in the opening half.