

Pride no spur for fading Villa

72/73

Luton 0, Aston Villa 0

Aston Villa and Luton are two teams with nothing left to play for but their pride—and their fans might have hoped that even this would have inspired more endeavour than that produced at Luton.

But after ten minutes it became clear that the match would become another end-of-season goal-less draw.

Luton officials confidently expected 15,000 spectators for the match with fans queuing to see former Luton favourites Chris Nicholl and Neil Rioch.

The 10,900 who turned up might have felt that they could have spent their time better. Villa, hit by injury, were busy but disappointing. Luton were their usual erratic selves.

During the first half Luton came nearest thanks to Villa. Robson, booked for a late tackle on Luton's Graham French, nearly turned his first half into a disaster with a back pass which had Jimmy Cumbes diving to save.

The game swung backwards and forwards with neither team looking likely to score, though Luton came still closer with a shot from French which hit the post.

For Villa Little and Hamilton gave Luton the most trouble. Lochhead, bustling and brushing his way towards the goal, had his own personal defender, John Faulkner, in the Luton back line.

From the first whistle they were engaged in their own duel with the free kicks about equal.

Villa's only bright spot in the second half came when Little split Luton's defence in a fine run. With only the goalkeeper to beat he passed to McMahon who was tackled and robbed of a goal.

Luton: Barber; Shanks, Thomson, Faulkner, John Ryan, Jimmy Ryan, Anderson, Hindson, Aston, French, Busby. Sub: Goodeve (for Aston, 45th min.).

Aston Villa: Cumbes; Ross, Robson, Brown, Nicholl, Rioch, McMahon, Little, Lochhead, Vowden, Hamilton.

Attendance: 10,971.