

Haslam's new Luton go storming on

LUTON are hustling into a real promotion challenge — six points in eight days have put them in second place.

Villa see their dreams of First Division football in their centenary year slipping away — one point and one goal from their last five matches

Luton need still more goals to sharpen their thrust. They scraped in by a single goal in each of those three successes.

But Luton manager Harry Haslam won't accept this. "We have won our games and won well. The difference between Luton last year and this is that we don't give presents these days.

"We used to press forward without enough thought when the goals

weren't coming — and got caught by breakaways.

"Not now — Villa may feel that they gave it all away. They didn't. We took it.

"The next four games are the important ones. We have to keep right in touch from the start of the New Year."

Whether they missed goals or not they missed the injured Jimmy Husband

here, and Alan West, after spicing Town's first half display with some lovely controlled football, was submerged in the second half.

It was not a happy return to Kenilworth Road for former inhabitants Neil Rioch and Chris Nicholl. Rioch was not allowed a chance by a strong home defence and Nicholl had his name taken.

Luton 1, Aston Villa 0

By PAT COLLINS

Said Villa's Vic Crowe: "I thought we had done enough to win. We didn't come here to destroy—we came to win.

"Unfortunately Luton's corner kicks caught us napping. We should have cut out that goal but just the same I was pleased with our display."

Both managers were right to be pleased. Both teams made honest efforts to entertain. And none more than Villa's 32-year-old left back Charlie Aitken.

This was Charlie's 478th

League game to equal the Villa record of the late Billy Walker.

Villa's slip showed with that second half corner. Anderson moved up and not a defender went to cover him. Aston's kick was perfectly placed and Anderson's header was inevitable.

LUTON: Horn 6—Shanks 7, Faulkner 6, Garner 6, Thomson 7, Ryan (J) 6, Anderson 7, West 6—Butlin 5, *FERN 8, Aston 7.

ASTON VILLA: Gumbes 7—Gidman 6, *NICHOLL 8, Ross 7, Aitken 7—McMahon 6, Hockey 6, Brown 6—Little 6, Rioch 5, Hamilton 6.

Ref.: M. Sinclair (Guildford) 8.



ALAN WEST
controlled football.