

FRANCIS TIPS

THE SCALES WITH THREE

By **TREVOR WILLIAMSON**

Luton 1, Birmingham 3

A superbly taken hat-trick by Birmingham's Trevor Francis was the tangible difference between these two teams in the cellar of the First Division, who produced a thrilling fast-moving match at Luton.

For Francis, who successfully combines the roles of striker and mid-field, it was a first treble since he shot into the headlines with four against Bolton at the tender age of 16. He is only 20 now.

The first two on Saturday were identical. The dominant Gallagher pumped a free-kick away to Burns around the edge of the penalty area. Burns headed the ball across and Francis dashed in to shoot home.

That was all in the space of five minutes. But far from flooring Luton, these set-backs seemed to jolt them into concerted action, and from a West free-kick they pulled a goal back when Hindson drove the ball in.

Then, instead of hammering away, they allowed Birmingham to come back, and gradually had the midfield wrested away from them despite their having four men in that area.

The final blow to Luton came when Francis took a pass from Calderwood beat John Ryan and bored in on goal to score his third with another powerful drive which gave Barber no chance.

Luton. — Barber; Shanks, Thomson Chambers, Litt, John Ryan, Hindson, Jim Ryun, Husband, West, Alston.

Birmingham. — Latchford; Martin, Bryant, Kendall, Gallagher, Pendrey, Campbell, Francis, Burns, Hatton, Calderwood.