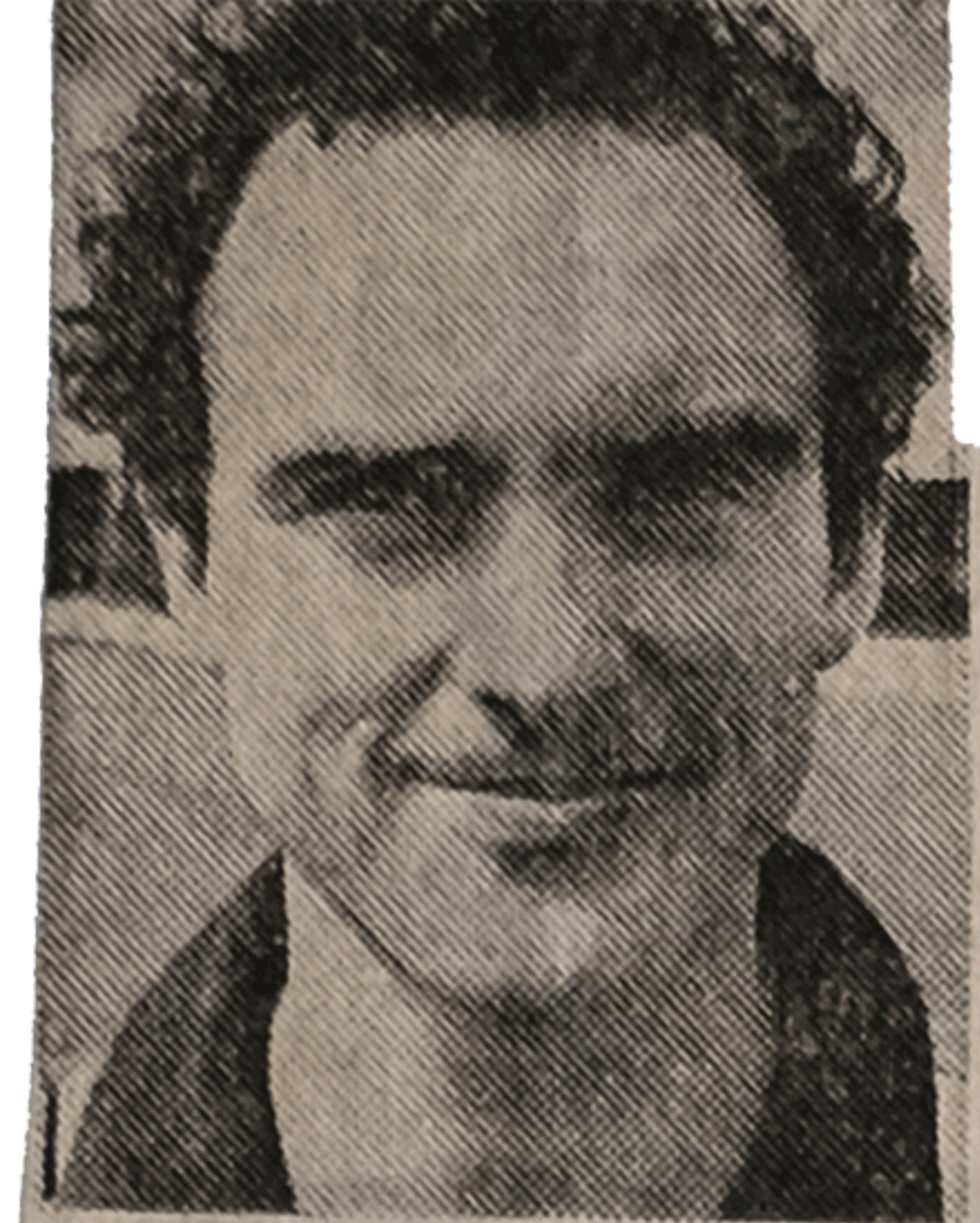




ASTON—pulled one back for
Luton against Coventry

Luton fighters won't give up

74/75

By JOHN DIXON

Luton 1 Coventry 3

COVENTRY boss Joe Mercer admitted it: "Luton gave us a bit of a fright. They really came at us." He was referring to Luton's great second-half fight-back after Coventry had given them the run-around.

The game had looked all over at half-time, when Coventry had eased themselves into a two-goal lead. It took a half-time pep-talk from manager Harry Haslam to make Luton believe in their chances.

The first was made by Alan Green's strong run down the left wing and the second came when Les Cartwright duplicated it down the right. Only a brilliant save by Graham Horn denied Alderson a first-half hat trick.

But Haslam's chat was a tonic and the Coventry defence had to take a pounding in the second half.

Willie Carr all but gave away a penalty. The Luton crowd were convinced he had fouled Ron Futch in the box. The linesman flagged, but the referee waved aside Luton's angry appeals.

John Aston pulled a goal back after 55 minutes and for the next 20 minutes Coventry were on the rack

Saves

But goalkeeper Neil Ramsbottom more than made up for his inactivity of the first half. He made two brilliant saves, one from a close-range flick by Adrian Alston and the other from a 20-yard pile-driver by Steve Buckley.

John Craven worked hard to hold the Coventry defence together as Luton pressed for the equaliser and rounded off a great afternoon by laying on the goal which finally killed Luton's resistance.

He made a long clearance from defence. Alan Green found himself on his own in the Luton half, ran 30 yds, rounded Horn and sent Buckley floundering to slot home the killer goal.

LUTON.—Horn 6. John Ryan 7. Buckley 6. Anderson 5. Faulkner 5. P. Futch 6. Jim Ryan 5. Alston 5. R. Futch 5. West 6. ASTON 8.

COVENTRY.—Ramsbottom 6. Oakley 7. Cattlin 6. CRAVEN 8. Cartwright 7. Dugdale (withdrawn) 6. Carr 7. Alderson 7. Ferguson 6. Green 6. Hutchison 7. Sub: Holmes 6.