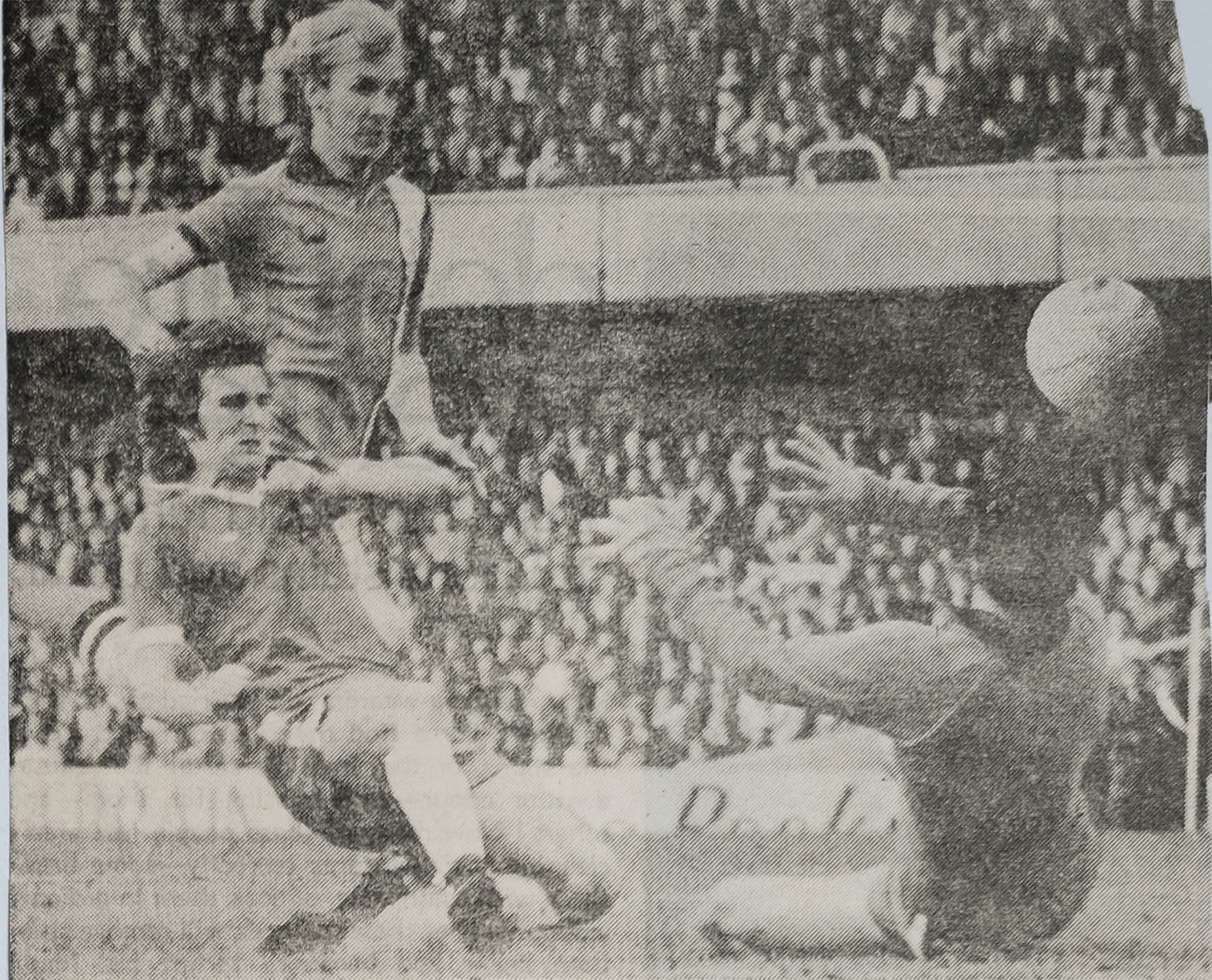




"WHO killed off Luton?" "I," said the Sparrow, "with my bow and arrow. I killed off Luton."

John Sparrow, Chelsea's 18-year-old left back, didn't actually say that, but no one would have blamed him for being so boastful.

It was his 25-yard left-foot shot, speeding into the corner of Luton's net as straight and fast as any arrow, which clinched it for Chelsea.

OPTIMIST

And when all the statistics have been sorted out, it could be the goal that puts Chelsea into Division One and leaves Luton as courageous also-rans.

Luton manager Harry Haslam refused to write off his team's chances, but the feeling that perhaps it's all over crept in when he said:

"After the sort of run we put together to get into the promotion race, no one can really blame

SPARROW'S ARROW!

By **BRIAN MADLEY**

Chelsea 2 Luton 0

the team if they don't make it.

"With only 13 first-team players to work with I can only do so much. I can't work miracles. If I try to walk in the bath, I sink."

Keep - 'em - happy Harry was, as usual, in good form. His team, however, had lost the spark that gave them 23 points from 12 games up until last week.

The evidence that it was not going to be their day came early on when Fuccillo fell over, after appearing to have the ball covered.

It allowed Lewington to send a quick forward

ball to the unmarked Finnieston, who scored with only the keeper to beat.

Luton then put together some of the best football of the game but got no breaks. Bonetti grabbed Aston's neat flick at the second attempt and somehow scrambled away a fine Futchler header.

Then Luton lost Price, whose head met Swain's high-flying boot with such force that he ended up in hospital for a check on his wounded eye.

Sparrow's goal finished them. West's headed clearance landed on that favoured left foot and

● Oh, yes. Steve Finnieston thunders Chelsea's first goal past Luton 'keeper Aleksic. 76/77

the moment the ball left his boot there was no chance of anyone stopping it.

Neither side could create much excitement in a scrappy second half.

"I admit it was not great to watch, but from now until the end of the season I don't think many of them will be," said delighted Chelsea boss Eddie McCreadie.

He added: "I have been optimistic of our promotion chances all along. I am as optimistic as ever now."

I'd go along with that, and if his team can start thinking as quickly as they run, there could be better things ahead.

CHELSEA: Bonetti 7—Locke 6, *HARRIS 8, Wicks 6, Sparrow 7—Stanley 6, Lewington 7, Britton 6—Wilkins 6, Finnieston 6, Swain 6.

LUTON: Aleksic 6—Price (injured) 6, Faulkner 7, *FUTCHER 8, Buckley 6—Chambers 7, West 6, Fuccillo 5—Husband 5, Geddis 6, Aston 5. Sub.: Jones 6.

Ref.: J. Taylor (Wolverhampton) 6.