

THE TOWN DISH OUT A SUNDAY ROASTING

Dreary West Brom get just desserts

83/84

A DISMAL dessert was dished up at Kenilworth Road to follow the Sunday lunch.

Entirely responsible for cooking up the disappointing fare were Albion who did their best to ensure entertainment was struck off the menu.

With scarcely a shot at goal and even less imagination and flair, West Brom never threatened and lively, skilful Hatters were able to win comfortably without being called upon to produce their Sunday best.

The match did at least make a mockery of reputations, transfer market valuations and claims to fame.

West Brom recalled England striker Regis after injury but he quickly ran out of ideas against Paul Elliott whose speed to the ball shut the big man out of the game.

One reasonable shot was the sole effective contribution from winger Tony Morley, recently signed from Villa, who continued his record of making no impression against Kirk Stephens.

Morley appeared to have forgotten he is a winger, drifting inside where he was ineffective and where he could provide no service to Regis.

Luton, in contrast, were provided with valuable service from green youngsters and bargain basement buys. The left side looked more secure than it has for many weeks, with Mitchell Thomas, at left-back, and Ray Daniel, left-side of mid-field, working hard in defence and inspiring many attacks.

Daniel's speed took him forward so quickly he was able to operate as a striker with Aylott, Walsh and Stein.

Aylott, still apparently relishing his discovery from the oblivion of the Third Division, did

LUTON 2

Horton (pen)
Aylott

WEST BROM 0

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everything Albion expected of Regis and more.

The "more" was the brilliant goal he floated over Barron's head after 64 minutes.

That goal sealed the game for Luton, adding as it did to Brian Horton's 41st minute penalty.

Daniel deserved the credit for that first goal because it was his enterprise and pace that took him into the box, forcing Luke to pull him down.

Virtually every serious effort fell to Luton. Thomas put Daniel away and his low left-wing cross was slammed wide by Walsh.

Walsh spurned an even better chance when he raced through the defence but pulled the ball back too severely and saw it trickle across the face of the goal.

Then he was unlucky with a precise chip that was tipped over by Barron.



● That'll do! Brian Horton jumps for joy after scoring Luton's penalty on Sunday. Walsh is about to add his congratulations. Picture: GARETH OWEN.

Mal Donaghy sent a dipping volley just over and then completed a penetrating run and a one-two with Stein by forcing another fine save from Barron.

Christmas spirit was absent all too often with several players upsetting referee Mike Taylor.

Chief culprit was Albion's midfield hard man Martin Jol, sent for the early bath after 67 minutes.

He had fouled Hill badly after seven minutes to earn a booking but his later tackle on Horton seemed innocuous and the Dutchman's reputation, more than the offence, seemed to be responsible for his departure.

David Cross was

booked for fouling Sealey, and Barron for dissent. Luton's Elliott suffered the same penalty for a rugby tackle on Regis.

Luton were never in danger in this game and well worth their win. But the 11,566 crowd, many no doubt rewarding themselves for tedious Christmas shopping expeditions the previous day, deserved better.

LUTON: Sealey, Stephens, Elliott, Donaghy, Thomas, Hill, Horton, Daniel, Stein, Aylott, Walsh. Sub: Antic. WEST BROM: Barron, Zondervan, McNaught, Luke, Cowdrill, Jol, Lewis, Forsyth, Cross, Regis, Morley. Sub: Perry.

CANON LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Liverpool.....	18	7	1	1	20	3	4	3	2	11	10	37
Man Utd.....	18	7	0	3	22	9	4	3	1	12	10	36
West Ham.....	18	6	2	1	22	9	4	1	4	8	8	33
QPR.....	18	6	1	2	13	5	4	1	4	16	11	32
Coventry.....	18	4	2	2	12	7	5	3	2	16	13	32
LUTON.....	18	5	2	2	21	13	5	0	4	12	14	32
Soton.....	18	7	1	1	14	6	2	3	4	6	8	31
A. Villa.....	18	8	1	1	19	11	1	3	4	10	15	31
Nottm F.....	18	7	2	1	23	10	2	1	5	10	15	30
Norwich.....	19	5	2	3	16	12	3	4	2	10	9	30
Tottenham.....	18	3	3	2	10	10	5	2	3	20	17	29
Arsenal.....	18	5	0	5	17	13	3	0	5	13	13	24
West Brom.....	18	4	1	3	10	8	3	1	6	11	19	23
Sunderland.....	18	4	3	3	12	11	3	1	4	7	16	23
Ipswich.....	18	4	2	3	16	10	2	2	5	11	16	22
Everton.....	18	3	3	3	5	6	3	1	5	6	14	22
Birmingham.....	18	4	0	4	7	6	1	3	6	8	16	18
Notts C.....	18	3	2	3	15	13	2	0	8	9	20	17
Leicester.....	19	4	2	3	15	15	0	3	7	11	21	17
Watford.....	18	2	3	4	17	19	2	1	6	12	16	16
Stoke.....	18	2	2	4	11	16	0	5	5	7	17	13
Wolves.....	18	0	5	5	6	20	1	0	7	6	25	8

(● After Sunday's games)