

Stein ends goal famine but Luton let it slip

By **MIKE BEDDOW**

83/84

Birmingham 1 Luton 1

BRIAN STEIN, Luton's England striker, ended a 17 League game goal famine against Birmingham last night. But Luton's hopes of victory were thwarted by a late Billy Wright penalty.

The visitors could not have begrudged Birmingham their point, for they spent almost all of the second half under fierce pressure. Harford missed an open goal and Thomas cleared a Rees volley off the line.

Luton will be disappointed they failed to capitalise on a fourth minute goal by Stein, who exploited space in Birmingham's penalty area after a through pass by Antic.

It seemed Luton fell to the temptation of trying to sit on their advantage. Nothing more was seen of Stein and, on the night, Walsh's reputation was greater than his ineffective performance.

Birmingham were invited to push forward in numbers. In the 26th minute Gayle's dipping volley brought an outstanding save by Sealey.

Wasted chances

Luton offered only a whimper in the second half in which Donaghy delivered their solitary shot from 20 yards. Birmingham, in contrast, wasted numerous chances before an 82nd minute handling offence by Thomas gave Wright the opportunity to equalise.

However, Birmingham's improvement was marred by Hopkins collecting his 12th caution of the season and a dismal attendance of 9,592, the lowest for a First Division match at St Andrews since 1965.

Birmingham. — Coton; Roberts, Hagan, Blake, Wright, Broadhurst, Gayle, Vandenhouwe, Harford, Rees, Hopkins.

Luton. — Sealey, Stephens, Thomas, Antic, Elliott, Goodyear, Donaghy, Stein, Walsh, Aylott, Bunn.