

EVERYBODY I spoke to after this disgusting exhibition of strong-arm football laid the blame at the door of Referee H. Stott, of Boston, Lincolnshire.

Nor do I exonerate him. Mr. Stott made many curious decisions. And his greatest fault was an appalling lack of control when the whole thing boiled over in the second half.

But don't put all the blame on the referee. Players just cannot use this excuse of lack of firm handling to do as they please.

They have responsibilities, too. I blame the players as well as the referee—particularly two or three Chelsea players.

Desperate

Chelsea have slipped a long way from the intelligent, free-moving side I saw whip Wolves earlier in the season. When things didn't come off for them we had a reversion to the too-robust tactics I hoped Chelsea had discarded.

They became the spoiling, hurried side we have seen in the past, too desperate to settle into any football pattern after a good first half.

Their tactics rebounded on them. Jimmy Greaves was like a little boy lost in an atmosphere where no ball player was allowed time to settle on the ball. Then came the saddening sight of John Sillett being sent off in the extra minutes of injury time.

Justice

It was justice that Luton should win. Most of the concerted efforts to inject some football into what had become a foot BRAWL came from the home side.

In skipper Sid Owen they had a player whose calm refusal to let the temperature around him put him out of his stride gave them the edge when Chelsea threw in everything late on in a bid for a point.

Peter Sillett stood out for a

ROUGH STUFF FAILS HERE

By PAT COLLINS

Luton ... 2, Chelsea ... 1

RATINGS.—Skill: Luton 7, Chelsea 5. Entertainment 6. Sportsmanship Control 4.

frantic Chelsea, who switched wingers and brought up Denis Saunders to inside-forward in an effort to get more power into the attack.

Luton almost made the mistake of trying to match Chelsea's vigour until a brilliant winning goal by George Cummins reminded them to keep playing football—or trying to.

I hope Chelsea will renew their faith in the football they have proved they can produce. They will win no medals for a repetition of this.

GOALS.—Luton: Brown (8 min.), Cummins (71). Chelsea: Tindall (24).

LUTON: Baynham 8; Dunne 7; Hawkes 6; Morton 8; Owen 9; Pacey 7; Bingham 8; Turner 6; Brown 7; Cummins 6; Adam 8.

CHELSEA: Mattnewa 7; Sillett (P) 9; Sillett (J) 5; Mortimore 5; Scott 8; Saunders 5; Brabrook 6; Greaves 5; Tindall 5; Stubbs 5; Black 5.

REFEREE: H. Stott (Boston, Lincs). LINESMEN: F. Thoday (Cottenham), A. Stewart (East Barnet).

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

Referee Howard Stott, of Boston—one of the Football League's most junior officials—was put into the "dock" by most national newspapers. Their overwhelming verdict was "guilty"—guilty of failing to exercise adequate control of a game that began full of promise and ended as an undignified brawl.

"I blame Referee H. V. A. Stott for never gaining control of a match which was packed with incidents, crude tackling and far too much ill-feeling."—"Sunday Express."

"Chelsea's bright, brash, brave young men—who so often looked back in anger—are in danger of showing contempt for the rule book. Not that the Luton boys spent the afternoon polishing their haloes. But at least they did display the sort of co-ordinated Soccer one expects from a First Division club."—"News of the World."

Both Brown
and Scott miss
this ball.

