

Hurst does it again

7/12

West Ham 2

Luton 1

By DAVID WILLIAMS

THE sight of Bobby Moore being carried off on a stretcher after eight minutes seemed likely to cast a grim shadow over this third-round Cup-tie.

It was one of the few unhappy moments in an exhilarating game that saw West Ham survive a second-half pounding. And a hospital X-ray revealed Moore's injury was only a damaged nerve on the right ankle.

He is not expected to be out long.

West Ham weren't long taking the lead. Just ninety seconds.

Bryan Robson engineered the move and Trevor Brooking's skill and near-post cross saw Geoff Hurst rocket a header in off the bar.

It was a superb reminder that Hurst still has the touches of a world-class striker.

Luton skipper Mike Keen

almost gave away a goal and Hurst hooked over an empty net before Vic Halom broke down the left.

He pushed the ball too far ahead and Moore was in to force the ball away.

He never got up from that tackle.

On came transfer-listed Peter Eustace, but it was clear Hammers were dazed. Their lead meant little compared with the loss of Moore.

Luton's defence was suspect every time Clyde Best, Hurst and Brooking threatened.

Harry Redknapp's close control near the right corner set up the second goal. A cross found the head of Hurst and 'keeper Tony Read, who never looked too

happy, only got his fingertips to the ball. Best thumped home the chance.

Don Givens's fifty-third minute goal restored Luton's battered confidence. He headed powerfully past stranded Bobby Ferguson.

Luton suddenly realised they were in with a chance. Long-range efforts from David Court and Keen were only inches wide and a Hindson pile-driver hit the angle of bar and post.

Then in the seventieth minute, after John Moore nudged Brooking, Hurst hit an identical penalty to the one against Stoke's Gordon Banks in the League Cup semi-final.

Read brilliantly forced the ball away.

This miss meant Hammers were often in a worried sweat till the end. As the seconds ticked away Chris Nicholl fired a shot which rebounded to safety of Ferguson's legs.