

KNOCKOUT.

JOHN

73/74

West Bromwich Albion 1, Luton 1

By GRAHAM BAKER

COURAGEOUS centre half John Faulkner survived a nightmare final half hour to help Luton into the First Division after 13 years.

Faulkner, injured in a mid-air collision with teammate Anderson, was suffering from severe concussion but he was determined to stay on.

Skipper Bobby Thomson said: "John didn't know where he was. Every now and then we had to point out the ball for him."

Yet, tragically Faulkner's

concussion cost Luton a point when he conceded one of the weirdest penalties I've ever seen.

With Luton leading 1-0, Albion winger Johnston ran straight at Faulkner and collapsed to the ground.

Referee McNally, who had a very poor game, incredibly gave a penalty, although Faulkner had no time to get out of the way. Tony Brown scored from the spot in the 73rd minute.

Luton boss Harry Haslam stormed: "It's not often I go really berserk about a referee but this one was the limit."

This was very much Luton's day from the moment they raced into a fifth-minute lead, following a long free-kick from Faulkner on the halfway line.

Albion keeper Latchford was caught way off his line and Butlin climbed to head home.

At the end their fans swarmed onto the pitch to chair Anderson and Butlin off, as Thomson raced over to embrace his manager.

Comedian Eric Morecambe, a director of Luton said last night: "I wasn't able to go to The Hawthorns because I'm suffering from a stinking cold. So it looks as though I shall be getting drunk on cough mixture instead of champagne."