

PAT'S KO PUNCH CHOKES SPURS

74/75

WHEN they get around to working out the mathematics of relegation next April, Spurs may well remember with remorse the events of a cold afternoon at Kenilworth Road.

Nobody, except Luton, ever needed points the way Spurs need them at the moment.

Yet with two very safely

By PATRICK COLLINS

Luton 1 Spurs 1

in their possession, they contrived to hand one back in the most grotesque fashion yesterday.

There were three minutes left to play when Mike England moved to make a routine clearance.

He swung a boot at the ball and produced the kind of slice that gives bad golfers sleepless nights,

sending it curling high into his own area.

But Pat Jennings had seen the situation and was rushing out to atone.

As Luton's John Aston said later: "When the big fellow comes out like that, you just wait for him to punch it 25 yards." Not yesterday.

Impeded by Rod Fern, Jennings swung a wayward fist and presented Aston with the kind of chance he never looked like missing.

It was a strange goal, but then it had been a strange sort of game.

Luton had played with earnest intent and without luck during a first half which went a long way towards explaining the current desperate positions of the two clubs.

Terry Naylor had been required to take a fine effort by Peter Anderson off the Spurs line and Fern had brushed the outside of a post with a firm drive.

But Spurs, with Ralph Coates on for Jimmy Neighbour, slowly discovered themselves in the second half and with £140,000 John Duncan fitting subtly and intelligently into the scheme of things, they began to play the touch

football one associates with their better days.

Duncan was denied a debut goal only by the knees of keeper Keith Barber before, in the 67th minute, Spurs took the reward they deserved.

Coates made himself room on the right, Duncan distracted defenders with a decoy run, and a beautifully judged cross from Coates left Martin Chivers with the simplest of headed goals at the far post.

Humour

But while Luton are in urgent danger of losing their newly won First Division place, they are in no danger of losing their sense of humour.

Cyril Knowles, who collapsed on the pitch, revealed later that he had been suffering from food poisoning. "I've eaten some bad scampi," he said.

Luton manager Harry Haslam looked suddenly humble. "Scampi!" he said. "They must live well at Tottenham. My lads can just about run to fish and chips."

LUTON. — Barber, Shanks, Thomson, Chambers, Litt, Garner, Hindson, Fern, Anderson, West, Aston. Sub: Ryan.

SPURS. — Jennings, Evans, Knowles, Pratt, England, Naylor, Neighbour, Perryman, Chivers, Peter, Duncan, Sub: Coates.