

PENALTY SAVES

LUTON YAWN

77/78
Luton ... 1, C. Palace ... 0

A 57th-minute penalty by Lil Fuccillo rescued this game from being the biggest yawn of the season and overshadowed Phil Holder's sending off five minutes from the end.

Luton's goal, scored after Fuccillo had been hacked down in the area by Chatterton, was the only moment of excitement for the crowd.

Holder's dismissal came after he had objected that Luton's defensive wall was not 10 yards away. He measured the required distance for the referee, and was then sent off by Alan Robinson, of Waterloo, who had earlier booked the Palace player Hinshelwood and Swindlehurst were also booked along with Luton's Carr.

Palace manager Terry Venables will not discipline Holder. He said: "I maintain he had the right to question the distance. If it hadn't have been so serious, the sending-off would have been funny."

Earlier, Luton striker Ron Futcher headed past 'keeper Burridge but the effort was disallowed for a handling offence, and Fuccillo's fierce drive was tipped round the post.

Palace, in rare retaliation, went close when Hilaire and Walsh almost surprised Knight.

Luton—Knight; Price, Carr, McNichol Jones, Futcher (P), Stein, West, Futcher (R), Fuccillo, Boersma.

C Palace. — Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sanson, Chatterton, Cannon, Boyle, Hilaire, Holder, Swindlehurst, Walsh, Silkman (Murphy, 69mins).