

Carr misses the last two games

DELIRIOUS SOUTHAMPTON fans invaded the Kenilworth Road pitch after their team's 2-1 victory over Luton and started their promotion celebrations despite the fact that the Saints still need one point from their last two games to make it a mathematical certainty.

Unfortunately, the hooligan element among them wrecked a cross-bar on the goal at the Kenilworth Road end of the ground where Southampton's red and white army had been massed throughout the game.

Their riotous action completely ruined what should have been a good afternoon's entertainment. But there was no doubt that Southampton, who brought 9,000 supporters with them to give Luton a 14,000 attendance, deserved their victory.

But Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy still refused to accept his side had won promotion to the First Division. "I am always pleased when we win away, but we still need that one elusive point.

"We were the only team in the top three to win today and, when things like that happen, it makes you wonder what could happen in our last two matches.

"I was pleased that the two teams above us lost which put us at the top of the Division, but there will not be any promotion celebrations from us until we have taken that

one vital point."

Luton manager David Pleat thought his team had done enough to take one point -- and they would have done if Southampton had not snatched a dramatic winning goal three minutes from the end with a penalty.

Tremendous

"It was unfortunate to lose like that at the death," he said. "I thought we did enough throughout the 90 minutes to take a point, but Southampton are a hard side and you have to compete with them.

"Their supporters were tremendous and out-shouted

By ERIC HARRIS

ours, but Southampton have several players who play for each other and they are a very difficult side to beat.

"Considering the age gap between the two teams, I thought we did very well. I have a young side who are learning what professional football is all about and I sw things this afternoon which pleased me tremendously."

Some of Southampton's tackles left a lot to be desired and referee Brian Homewood worked overtime with his pencil by booking five players, Southampton's Alan Ball, David Peach and goalkeeper Peter Wells with the Town's



DAVID CARR

Lilly Fuccillo and Ron Fletcher.

Luton fullback David Carr was carried off after 24 minutes and, although fears that he had broken his leg were dispelled after a visit to hospital, he will miss the last two games of the season with badly torn ligaments.

Niggling

The niggling fouls killed any hopes of good entertainment, and the flow of the game was almost ruined by the referee who flatly refused to play the advantage rule.

But, despite Southampton's superiority, middle-of-the-



PAUL FUTCHER

table Luton still presented them with a few problems and could have posed a few more by showing more urgency in the penalty box.

The first real attack in the match came in the 12th minute when Ron Fletcher completely split Southampton's defence with a perfect pass to Phil Boersma.

Boersma raced into the area like an express train but won only a corner which Southampton's defence dealt with adequately.

Chances

If anything, Luton had more scoring chances than Southampton in the first half when Fuccillo completely miskicked, and Ron Fletcher's well placed header was deflected for a corner.

Those missed chances proved costly for the Town who fell behind in the 53rd minute when Ted MacDougall headed a splendid goal from Ball's free kick.

That goal restored Southampton's confidence for a while, but when Ricky Hill beat their offside trap 11 minutes later, the Town were back in with a fair chance.

It looked as though they had scrambled a draw until Ball jinked his way into the area. England Under 21 defender Paul Fletcher made a rare mistake and paid the penalty for a mis-time tackle.

After a moment's hesitation, the referee pointed to the spot and David Peach stepped up to score what will obviously be a vital goal to Southampton.