

WEST STAYS ON

Luton 2 Fulham 0: by PETER WOOD

LUTON midfielder Alan West, who scored one and pressured defender John Beck into a nown goal, not only rescued Luton from relegation but ensured his future with the club. "If we had gone into the Third Division, West would have been one of the first to go," said Luton boss David Pleat.

"He is a First Division player who has had to battle every week in the Second, but he would not have suited the Third," added Pleat.

The Luton manager thought his young team did a fine job in avoiding the drop, but promised to introduce some new experienced players next season.

"Then youngsters like Mark Aizelwood, Kirk Stephens and Mal Donaghy will come on in leaps and bounds," he forecast.

The goal that put Luton on the road to safety came in the 22nd minute. Brien Stein hammered the ball across from the right and West went up for a near-post header with Beck, who deflected it in as he fell.

There was no argument about West's 55th-minute goal. Stephens, outstanding in a generally boring affair, fed him a nice through pass and West knocked it well wide of 19-year-old keeper Perry Digwood.

Fulham hardly had a look in up front though enthusiastic striker Gordon Davies hit the post with a fierce drive on the hour.

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