

Pleat puts boot in

82/83

THE game ended all square, but Luton's David Pleat emerged the winner of the post-match interview meeting with United's Ron Atkinson.

Pleat was bubbling after seeing his team come from behind to salvage a point, just as they did against other class opponents Spurs and Liverpool earlier in the season.

"I was delighted with all my lads," declared Pleat, "but I had to look at the programme to remember that one or two of United's international stars were even on the field."

Atkinson was ruffled and it showed. He insisted: "We should have won after dominating the first-half, but we threw it away."

My congratulations go to Pleat, but my sympathies lie with Atkinson. His team let it slip—just as they did in the mid-week UEFA Cup tie in Valencia—and missed the chance of regaining the First Division leadership.

It looked so easy for United when Ashley Grimes shot them in front in the 12th minute after Bryan Robson and Remi Moses had combined to open up the Luton defence.

Luton had already had a first-minute escape when Richard Money headed away a Frank Stapleton lob from under the bar, and both Wayne Turner and Brian Horton made further goal-line clearances before the interval.

United's rearguard looked solid and had denied the high-scoring Luton attack a single goal

By REG DRURY Luton 1 Man Utd 1

chance. With skipper Ray Wilkins around to lend a helping hand, they were completely in command.

But United paid the price for failing to cash in on their superiority, and Luton came out battling in the second-half to turn the tide and came close to pinching all three points.

A Horton free-kick paved the way for a 59th minute equaliser, with the ball lofted over a red-shirted wall for Ricky Hill to steal in and apply the vital finishing touch.

Until that stage United keeper Gary Bailey had virtually been a spectator, but he had to look lively



■ IT WAS like this ref! Luton's Clive Goodyear (right) tries to explain his tackle (above) on United's Frank Stapleton. It earned him a booking
Pictures: PETER SIMPSON

to prevent a Luton winner—even if he did it in a fashion that must have sent Atkinson's blood pressure soaring.

It was a late save from Paul Walsh which proved decisive, with full-back Mike Duxbury hooking the ball to safety as it ran loose.

LUTON.—Findlay 7, Stephens 7, Money 7, HORTON 8, Goodyear 7, Donaghy 7, Hill 7, tele 7, Walsh 7, Turner (wdn), Moss 7, Subi Antic 7.

MAN UTD.—Bailey 7, Duxbury 7, Alviaton 7, WILKINS 8, Moran 7, McQueen 7, Robson 7, Grimes 7, Stapleton 7, Whiteside 7, Moses 7.

