

LUTON boss David Pleat moaned: "We want shooting. What a goal to give away."

Whitehead's first-half effort was all that separated the teams at the whistle and Luton were only denied at least a point by Godden's brilliant goalkeeping.

Pleat added: "The first rule of defending is when uncertain, get the ball away. We didn't do that and are bitterly disappointed that that should decide the game."

Statham's full-time return at left-back for Albion after summer surgery had enabled Whitehead to move forward into attack and grab the decisive goal.

It sent his team to second place in the League.

But Luton full-back Stephens provided that suicidal back-pass that had Pleat fuming.

Regis also clipped the bar with a header and

Pleat slams Luton gift

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By JOHN BARTON
West Brom 1 Luton 0

Brown had the ball whipped away from him by Money after he had gone round the 'keeper.

But it was by no means all one way. Luton who have brought a refreshing approach to the First Division, gave Albion plenty to think about.

They have a lot for which to thank Godden. He came to the rescue with three fine second half saves from Hill, Horton and Walsh — Luton's best player.

But Statham was the

star of the show. England manager Bobby Robson saw his display and Arsenal's Sansom should be concerned about his England place.

Statham wasted no time in getting back in the groove and played as though he had never been away.

WEST BROM.—Godden 7—Baleon 7, Bennett 8, Robertson 7, *STATHAM 9—Zonder-van 7, Jol 7, Owen 7—Brown 7, Regis 7, Whitehead 7.

LUTON.—Judge 7—Stephens 6, Goodyear 7, Donaghy 7, Money 7—Hill 7, Horton 7, Fucille (w'drawn) 6—Stein 7, *WALSH 8, Moss 6 Sub.: Turner 6.

Ref.: M. Scott (Nottingham)