

No goal, say angry Luton

82/83

LUTON left Roker Park last night convinced that a linesman had robbed them of victory against Sunderland.

The entire Luton side maintained defender Wayne Turner had cleared an Ian Atkins header before it crossed the line for Sunderland's 87th minute equaliser in the 1-1 draw.

"Let's just say that if the referee and linesman got it right, I'm surprised at the reaction of my players," said Luton manager David Pleat last night.

"There was such an angry reaction, they must have been convinced it wasn't over the line.

"At the moment, they're all in the dressing room and feeling very upset about the goal.

CONFUSED

"Nobody likes to see players arguing with the referee, but I'm afraid it was understandable in this case.

"Perhaps they should all have fallen down on the floor and rolled around laughing to show what they thought about the decision."

The man at the centre of the incident, defender Wayne Turner, was adamant: "There's no way it was over the line. "As I

By JOHN WARDLE

headed the ball away my arm hit the net, so possibly the linesman was confused and thought it was the ball."

Referee Norman Allison was also involved in another controversy earlier when he was about to blow for a foul on Stan Cummins, but appeared to change his mind. The incident clearly took place inside the penalty area.

Both Pleat and Sunderland boss Alan Durban agreed that the final result

was fair, but Durban wasn't happy.

"It still hasn't been a very good week for us and one or two of the players were on edge in the early stages," said Durban.

"But they kept going and we probably had twice as many chances in the end, although they were really half chances. "Luton created more clear-cut openings but Chris Turner had a super game in goal."

Nick Pickering and Barry Venison came through the game uninjured and the Roker teenagers linked up with England's under-21's last night before flying out for Tuesday's game against Greece.



● HEADING WEST—but Colin West's header, failed to find the target.