

WE NEED YOU! LUTON PLEA TO STAR TRIO

82/83

BRIAN HORTON is to be offered a new contract which Luton manager David Pleat hopes will keep the skipper at Kenilworth Road for at least another season, writes Eric Harris.

When Horton signed from Brighton two years ago, he negotiated a clause in his contract which gave him a free transfer after two seasons.

By ERIC HARRIS

But Pleat, after watching Luton secure their First Division status at Manchester City on Saturday, said: "He will be offered a new contract."

The manager will also attempt to keep David Moss and keeper Jake Findlay, whose contracts also expire this summer, at Luton.

SUCCESSFUL

"I will have to speak to several players shortly about their futures while thinking about reserves," Pleat added.

Moss initially signalled his intention of leaving Luton this summer and was believed to be interested in playing in America to secure the financial future for his family.

The winger, who missed the last two games of the season with a bad rib injury, refused to discuss his future on Saturday night but his manager's

attempts to keep him at Luton may now be successful.

Findlay was also keen to leave Luton, but may now fancy staying with the club in the First Division.

Raddy Antic, who scored the priceless goal at Maine Road, is likely to be given a free transfer.

HOW THEY FINISHED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Liverpool	42	24	10	8	87	37	82
WATFORD	42	22	5	15	74	57	71
Man Utd	42	19	13	10	56	38	70
Tottenham	42	20	9	13	65	50	69
Nottm For	42	20	9	13	62	50	69
Aston Villa	42	21	5	16	62	50	68
Everton	42	18	10	14	66	48	64
West Ham	42	20	4	18	68	62	64
Ipswich	42	15	13	14	64	50	58
Arsenal	42	16	10	16	58	56	58
West Brom	42	15	12	15	51	49	57
Southampton	42	15	12	15	54	58	57
Stoke	42	16	9	17	53	64	57
Norwich	42	14	12	16	52	58	54
Notts County	42	15	7	20	55	71	52
Sunderland	42	12	14	16	48	61	50
Birmingham	42	12	14	16	40	55	50
LUTON	42	12	13	17	65	84	49
Coventry	42	13	9	20	48	59	48
Man City	42	13	8	21	47	70	47
Swansea	42	10	11	21	51	69	41
Brighton	42	9	13	20	38	68	40



Goal-hero Raddy Antic is buried by jubilant team-mates after scoring Luton's winner at Manchester City

Pleat salutes Hatters heroes



DAVID PLEAT
the anguish is over

AMID all the euphoria in the Luton dressing room after the vital victory at Maine Road on Saturday, manager David Pleat stood back with water in his eyes.

A traumatic climax to the season had been successfully negotiated with a slender 1-0 victory over Manchester City which ensured the Hatters' survival in the First Division for another nine months.

By ERIC HARRIS

Choking back the tears, the Luton boss shared the feeling of delight with his players who had to wait an agonising 85 minutes before Raddy Antic scored a hero's goal to send City into the Second Division for the first time in 17 years.

But Luton supporters did not know of the other half of the torment Pleat had been through in the build-up to a match

which was the most important since the side were last involved in the First Division relegation battle eight years ago.

The manager's father-in-law died early on Friday morning only hours before the team left for their hotel hideout in Staffordshire to escape from eager journalists anxious to question his players on their survival chances.

But the ecstasy of watching Antic scoring that

priceless goal was something Pleat couldn't hide.

"This has been the worst week in our lives," he said. "After losing to Manchester United on Monday, it has been difficult to come to terms with everything."

"The Old Trafford defeat, and the results of the previous weekend made it difficult for me to compose myself. How could I expect the players to be composed?"

"I have felt for the players' families because I know what they have been through and I am more proud today than when we won promotion last season."

"I'm sorry for our fans who have had to share a terrible week with us but I want them to know how proud I and the players were of them. We have never had away support as great as that."

"We have received hundreds of letters and telegrams from people who didn't want to see us go down. I'm pleased we have repaid their faith in us by winning."

"But, more than anything, I'm proud of my players. It hasn't been easy — but it's a most satisfactory climax to the season."