

**END OF THE
SOCCER
SEASON 83**

82/83

ONE HELL OF A STRUGGLE

Man City 0, Luton 1

AS ONE of these clubs had to be relegated most neutrals will be happier that Manchester City, not Luton, go down—and that simple, savage sentence is not callous as it sounds.

No one can feel glad that a great club, which belongs in the First Division, will now have to struggle like hell to get back there.

But the fact that the largest soccer crowd of the day attended the funeral means the essential traditional support is still and always available to be enticed into the famous Maine Road ground even if some of that crowd misbehaved in a stupid riot afterwards.

On balance, Luton deserved not just victory on the day but survival for any season. *Manchester City did not.*

Luton have remained faithful to brave, entertaining ideals all season—

**By FRANK
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which is why they'll be welcome again wherever they go. *Manchester City have not.*

Luton could have found relegation absolutely shattering, especially to their younger players with international potential—Paul Walsh, Ricky

Hill, Brian Stein. *Manchester City have not.*

That point was emphasised by proud Luton manager, David Pleat, when he took time off from celebrating Raddy Antic's 85th minute goal to spare a thought for City.

"They will surely come back quicker than we would have done," he said.

I'm not so sure, because City seem to be in a mess.



JOY: David Pleat celebrates Luton's escape.



DESPAIR: For City's Benson and Book