

Luton 0, Rotherham 2
(After extra time — Rotherham win on aggregate 4-3)

LUTON WERE last night dragged down to the depths of despair and frustration at being eliminated from the Milk Cup by Third Division opposition on their own Kenilworth Road patch.

It was an embarrassing defeat which manager David Pleat bravely admitted was "justice" as Rotherham deservedly went into tomorrow's third round draw.

Call it what you will, but the fact remains that the Yorkshire team fully earned their place in the next round by their sheer professional refusal to accept that their 3-2 deficit from the first leg was insurmountable.

Rotherham chased, harried and fought through 120 minutes of embarrassment for a Luton team who failed to convert numerous chances into goals. And at the end of the evening, Luton trooped off to a chorus of "What a load of rubbish" from the Oak Road fans — much to the annoyance of full-back Kirk Stephens who shook his head in total disbelief.

An abysmal attendance of 6,755, easily Luton's lowest of the season, had trouble deciding which was the First Division side after Phil Walker levelled the aggregate score ten minutes before half time.

That, as far as the Town were concerned, was the end of the story. It was nothing more than Rotherham deserved when Kevin Kilmore swept in the winning goal after 107 minutes.

Deathly

Rotherham defended magnificently in an atmosphere of deathly hush. The Luton fans failed to come to terms with the fact that, on the night, the opposition were the better team.

Without the suspended Paul Walsh and injured Frank Bunn and David Moss, Luton were at a complete loss to cope with a Rotherham side who fully exploited the gaps the Hatters generously provided.

Rotherham's ability to score twice against First Division opposition in the first leg was repeated last night, much to the consternation of the Luton manager.

He watched his team create at least a dozen chances and force 12 corners. But that was

LUTON TOWN: Sealey, Stephens, Turner, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Stein (B), Aylott, Antic, Daniel. Sub: Stein (M).

ROTHERHAM UTD: Stevenson, Forrest, Crosby, McEwan, Johnson, Stone, Gooding, Kilmore, Walker, Mitchell, Raynes (Rhodes).

ATTENDANCE: 6,755. REFEREE: K. Barratt (Coventry).

GOALS: Walker (35), Kilmore (107). BOOKING: McEwan (foul on Horton).

where Luton's domination ended.

The early goal Pleat desperately wanted almost came in the sixth minute when Ray Daniel, making his first full appearance of the season, blasted a left-foot drive a fraction wide after capitalising on Brian Stein's intelligent laid-off pass.

Vulnerable

That set the pattern for a succession of Luton raids involving Trevor Aylott, Raddy Antic, Stein, Brian Horton and Ricky Hill.

But that supremacy in approach-work failed to provide any dividend for a Luton team who often looked vulnerable when Rotherham attacked.

Walker took advantage of Paul Elliott's mistake



IT WAS 'JUSTICE' SIGHS SAD PLEAT

WHAT A SCRAMBLE . . . It's all go in the Rotherham penalty area (above) as the visitors battle to keep out the Hatters.

Below, Luton striker Trevor Aylott finds himself some room but sends his header flashing wide.



to give Rotherham the lead after Luton's central defender had failed to cut out Kilmore's through ball in the 35th minute.

Rotherham, however, also lived dangerously and there could have been goals for the Town when Alan Stevenson made brilliant saves from Stein and Mal Donaghy.

But that was typical of the Town's hard luck story because Kilmore inflicted the final insult on the Hatters two minutes into the second period of extra time when he belted the ball into the roof of the net from Walker's cross.