

REFEREE

HARSH

-PLEAT 83/84

By TREVOR WILLIAMSON

Luton ... 1, Watford ... 2

DAVID PLEAT, Luton's manager, had his own view of that Wilf Rostron sending off, which will cost the Watford captain a Cup Final place.

"Things like that happen every week," he said. "Referees invariably calm the situation down and get on with it."

Paul Elliot, the Luton defender dismissed with Rostron, has other worries, too.

He dislocated his shoulder in an earlier challenge and colleague Moss broke a collar bone as he crashed awkwardly after chasing a ball near the goal-line. Both could miss the remainder of the season.

Barnes doubtful

They were not the only casualties. Barnes, Watford's England striker, limped off with a muscle strain and there is a question mark over his fitness for the next two matches.

Sterling deputised for Barnes and proved an adaptable player, beaver away despite the close attentions of Horton, the durable Luton captain.

He switched the long crossfield pass from Callaghan adroitly to Johnston who scored his 22nd goal for Watford this season right on halftime.

Callaghan had put Watford ahead (19 mins) when Johnston, following a long throw by Sinnott, volleyed the ball hard into the ground and it bounced up for Callaghan to head home.

Though Watford generally looked the likely winners, Luton never conceded the point and Walsh drove the ball home (83 mins) from a flick by Stein, but the Cape Town born player was guilty of wasting other chances.

Luton were denied a penalty by the erratic Milford shortly before their goal when Thomas was floored in the area by Sinnott. But generally Sherwood was not overworked.

Luton Town.—Sealey; Stephens, Thomas, Horton, Elliott, Goodyear, Parker, Stein, Walsh, Bunn, Moss (Antic, 60).

Watford.—Sherwood; Bardsley, Price, Taylor, Terry, Sinnott, Callaghan, Johnston, Barnes (Sterling 15), Rostron, Atkinson.