

North atones

NICE GUYS can sometimes come out on top. Nineteen-year-old Stacey North learned the hard way after helping to give away one goal and then creating Luton's battling point-saver three minutes from time. North, full of promise but playing only because Luton lost central defender Paul Elliott with a broken leg in midweek, was given some stick for being too much of a gentleman and setting up Newcastle's opening goal.

84/85

Luton 2 Newcastle 2: by PAUL PARISH

He generously kicked the ball to an opponent to take a quick throw in, was caught out of position by Neil McDonald's long pass and watched in horror as Peter Beardsley chipped in Newcastle's 15th minute opener.

"We did tell him about

that at half time," grinned Luton manager David Pleat.

But North had the last laugh and earned praise from Pleat for being Luton's "new secret weapon." His long throw, in the 87th minute, found Brian Stein and he whipped in Luton's deserved equaliser.

Added Pleat: "That's the third time he has done it for us in only four appearances this season."

In between those two goals Pleat's young Lions had shown tremendous character and enthusiasm in twice battling their way back into the game.

Stunning

After Beardsley's opener Luton were given the kiss-of-life by a stunning goal from another kid Gary Parker. He capped a mature midfield performance with a 25-yard scorcher that dipped and curved beyond the rooted Kevin Carr in the Newcastle goal.

That signalled Luton's emergence from the shadows with Colin Todd, making a First Division comeback at the age of 36, in commanding form.

Joked Pleat: "I don't even know whether young North knew who Toddy was before the game. But with so many

injuries I have had to introduce youngsters like North, Parker, Tim Breacker and Ray Daniel and I am proud of them all.

"I would have been upset had we lost because I got a lot of pleasure out of watching all of them."

Unfortunately Luton showed a hesitancy in front of goal that looked as if it was going to cost them dear. Old hands Stein and Ricky Hill fluffed chances that should have finished Newcastle's challenge.

Those misses were cruelly punished by Newcastle's lightning counter-punch twelve minutes from time. McDonald hit the bar from Chris Waddle's cross and Pat Heard dived in to put Newcastle back in front.

That looked like curtains for Luton but North produced that long throw. Sein swooped to score and a secret weapon is no secret any more.

LUTON.—Dibble; Bracker, Turner, C. Todd, North, Doaghy, Hill, Stein, Elliott, Parker, Daniel. Sub: Hilaire.

NEWCASTLE.—Carr; B. F. O. W. N., Saunders, Heard, Anderson, Clarke, McDonald, Wharton, Waddle, Beardsley, McCreery. Sub: Ferrif.