

 JAKE FINDLAY ... tough return

Luton fall on the spot

DAVID PLEAT'S green light to go into the transfer market will be a welcome development after Tuesday's dismal performance at Hillsborough.

Hatters seemed to be suffering from post-Old Trafford depression as they were overrun by Wednesday after such a valiant battle against Manchester United.

Three penalties, two highly controversial, put the home side on the way to a 4-0 advantage and Luton replied too late to take their Milk Cup campaign beyond the fourth round.

SHEFF WED 4 LUTON 2

"We just didn't play," said a fuming Pleat after the match. "Sheffield were superb and I don't want to take any credit from them.

"But we had a raw deal with the penalties."

Jake Findlay came in to replace Andy Dibble, stretchered off at Old Trafford.

Wednesday's first lucky break came after 15 minutes when Stein was harshly judged to have pushed Chapman and Blair scored the first of his three penalties.

Marwood scored a fine goal after 33 mintues before the second penalty shocker in the 53rd.

Shelton crossed the ball and it took a deflection which, astonishingly, was ruled to have been caused by Donaghy's hand.

After 70 minutes Stacey North fouled Shelton for the third spot-kick.

Wednesday pulled off defender Mick Lyons after going 4-0 up and sent on forward Morris.

But the ploy to score even more backfired LUTON: Findlay, Breacker, North, Droy, as Steve Elliott nipped in for two well-taken goals.

His first, after 82 minutes, came when he shrugged off a challenge from Smith to turn a ball from Droy into the net.

Four minutes from the end Tim Breacker put in a cross and Elliott rose between two defenders to make the scoreline more respectable.

SHEFF WED: Hodge, Oliver, Shirtliff, Smith, Lyons, Worthington, Marwood, Blair, Varadi, Chapman, Shelton. Sub: Morris.

Donaghy, Hill, Turner, Bunn, Stein, Elliott, Hilaire. Sub: Parker.