

PLEAT IS

EVER THE

OPTIMIST

84/85

By BILL MEREDITH

Arsenal ... 3 Luton T. ... 1

MAYBE if Arsenal sign Steve Williams they will let us have Brian Talbot or Stewart Robson," David Pleat, Luton's manager, believes in looking on the bright side even in adversity.

Mr Pleat, with his team struggling in 21st place in the First Division, has few illusions "We are not strong enough, and I mean that in a physical sense as well," he said

It was certainly a tale of woe for Luton, who never gave the impression they thought they had the right to be on the same pitch as Arsenal.

Howe pleased

Don Howe, Arsenal's manager, was particularly pleased with the form of Ian Allinson, the free-transfer man who displaced £750,000 Charlie Nicholas. Allinson, who ironically lives a stone's throw from Luton, played like a man inspired.

"He's a cracker," said Mr Howe. "He scores goals, knocks in crosses from both wings, wins penalties. He'll even make the tea and run the shower. There's no way I can pick Nicholas in front of him at the moment."

Allinson had a hand in everything. He scored the first (18 minutes), hustled Breacker into making a silly back pass for the second by Woodcock (61), crossed for Anderson to head the third (68), and was brought down by Thomas for a penalty.

Sealey, a third-choice goalkeeper under siege, saved Talbot's spot kick and also managed to fumble a 35-yard thunderbolt from Robson for a corner.

Lukic who displaced Jennings in Arsenal's goal, was less busy—but he did make an important save from Foster, who captained Luton after being signed from Aston Villa in midweek.

Luton's consolation came late and out of the blue when Stein's overhead shot found the target after a cross from substitute Nwajiobi.

Arsenal.—Lukic; Anderson, Sansom, Talbot, Adams, Caton, Robson, Davis, Mariner, Woodcock, Allinson.

Luton.—Sealey, Breacker, Thomas, Turner, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Elliott, Bunn (Nwajiobi 65), Parker.