



● **OPENER:** Mal Donaghy, No 6 on the left, gets into a crowded goal area to head the Town into the lead.



● **FOILED:** Sam Allardyce checks Brian Stein in an incident which produced half-hearted appeals for a penalty from the Town.

# SENDING-OFF MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

THE rare pleasure of a place in the fifth round of the FA Cup for the first time since he became manager was quickly put into perspective by Luton Town boss David Pleat.

Home success over Second Division Huddersfield, who were reduced to ten men before the Town could break through, took second place in his thoughts on Saturday night to the need to strengthen the team for the First Division survival battle.

He made it clear that the conclusion of transfer talks with Crystal Palace to recruit Welsh international mid-

fielder Peter Nicholas was the day's most significant event at Kenilworth Road.

Like David Preece he will be a spectator when the Town try to reach the last eight in the cup at the expense of Watford.

Huddersfield, from the far fringe of the Second Division promotion battle, went home feeling sick at a referee's decision which turned the course of the game, but knowing that in the end the Town let them off lightly.

They gave as good as they got for the first half hour, might well have taken the lead, then subsided after right back Brian Laws lost his cool for 60 seconds and got sent off.

Both sides had made and missed chances before that with the visitors going closest to a goal when Daral Pugh dribbled through the heart of the Town defence and squared a pass for Graham Cooper, on the edge of the box.

Unmarked and with time to think, he could have scored, but cracked a shot against the post.

That was in the 26th minute, and seven minutes later Laws went off to give the Town the sort of lucky break any cup run needs.

He body-checked Ray Daniel in midfield to earn a booking, then tripped Mitchell Thomas a minute later. "I felt a bit sorry for the lad," said Town coach Trevor Hartley after the

## Town should see off Huddersfield

SECOND Division Huddersfield will provide Luton Town's FA Cup opposition at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

And while the opposition will be over-optimistic in a promotional battle, the Town should be realistic in making a happy return to the cup.

The lower side has two goals in the last 10 minutes of the game.

Spurs Editor BRIAN SWAIN at Huddersfield announces Luton Town's Cup opponents for Saturday.

Two new signings who have been reported to arrive at Kenilworth Road on Saturday are Peter Nicholas and a Welsh international.

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### Blues next time lucky?

● **AND THEY DID!** Brian Swain's bold prediction in our sister paper, the Luton Leader, after he had watched Huddersfield play Wolves in the third round replay last week.

### Report by Brian Swain Pictures: Mark Richards

dismissal of Laws put the Town on top.

From the free kick by Garry Parker Mal Donaghy headed his fourth cup goal of the season and the mystery after that was how

Huddersfield managed to avoid a real drubbing.

They had to pull Pugh out of the attack to replace Laws, and with leading scorer Dale Tempest already out through injury Hudders-

field were able to offer only defiance and rugged determination.

Steve Foster kept danger man Mark Lillis quiet, and with their team organisation disrupted Huddersfield should have been hammered.

The Town's four-man midfield, with Wayne Turner tackling and passing consistently well and Ricky Hill pressing forward with the

ball dangerously, exerted confident control.

Hill sparked the second goal, going down the right and crossing for Mick Harford to get in a diving header which was blocked. Brian Stein snapped up the rebound for his tenth goal of the season.

Just before that Harford had side-footed a glorious chance wide after a neat reverse pass by Turner and a near-post cross by Stein.

Daniel also went close, after Stein's dummy put him clear on Thomas's through-pass. Daniel dribbled through, rounded the keeper, then saw the shot cleared off the line by David Burke.

Another chance went begging when Harford's deliberate header across goal from Daniel's cross dropped nicely for Stein, but he shot wide.

Certainly the finishing should have been a lot more positive. But victory was no less sweet for that—it was the third in a row including the friendly in Iceland.

The Town players had every reason to be delighted, even if it was 11 men against ten. Arsenal would have settled for the same instead of defeat at York!



● **CLINCHER:** Brian Stein turns away after scoring the second goal, with Mick Harford, whose header was blocked, still grounded.



● **RISEING STAR:** Ray Daniel confronts goalkeeper Brian Cox.