

Pleat's glory — and

SORROW

by WILLIAM PIERCE

Luton 2 Huddersfield 0

LUTON boss David Pleat last night offered his sympathy to Huddersfield Town after his side had knocked the brave 10 men of the Second Division club out of the FA Cup.

Huddersfield right-back Brian Laws was sent off for two bookable trips within a minute—and that was effectively the end of his side's Cup hopes after they had looked likely to cause one of the day's shock results.

Referee Alf Buksh dismissed Laws in the 33rd minute after the Huddersfield player had brought down Ray Daniel and Mitchell Thomas in quick succession.

Huddersfield boss Mick Buxton was left speechless and would not comment on the decision of the referee who finished up with five names in his notebook at the end of a game that was never more than robust.

Problems

But Pleat said: "I felt sorry for the player — and Huddersfield. It is all hypothetical what might have happened if 11 players had remained in their side for 90 minutes. But they were giving us problems and had created as clear-cut a chance as you could wish to see."

Luton had been struggling to contain the Yorkshire side until the fatal 33rd minute when Laws received his marching orders. But he was hardly within reach of the dressing-rooms when Mal Donaghy headed Luton in front from the resulting free kick. After that Luton looked the only winners.

But once down to 10 men, Huddersfield inevitably began to feel the pace and 'keeper Brian Cox performed heroics, diving at the feet of Parker and Stein when Luton threatened to put the game beyond recall.

They did exactly that, however. 11 minutes after the interval when Harford dived low to head Hill's cross against the legs of Cox, and Stein was in the right spot to tuck away the rebound.