

NICHOLAS IS SET TO SIGN

By TREVOR WILLIAMSON

Luton 2, Huddersfield 0

NO ONE expects a full-blooded F A Cup tie to be a feast of good football and Luton's scrappy fourth round victory over Second Division Huddersfield underlined the point.

Certainly, Peter Nicholas, Crystal Palace's Welsh international midfield player, saw why Luton need him to give that extra power and skill.

He agreed terms after the game and is poised to sign today for around £125,000.

True the soggy conditions did not help matters, nor did over-indulgence in speed; only in the last quarter did Hill manage to initiate some well-executed Luton attacks.

By then the game had been won in a crucial of couple of minutes in the first half. Laws was sent off (33 mins) for the second of two clumsy rather than malicious looking tackles and, from Parker's resultant free kick, Donaghy headed home his second goal in successive ties.

Tapped in

84/85

Huddersfield, to their credit, battled on to prevent what should have been a goal romp. Lillis and Cowling gave Foster and company plenty to do at the back, but the Yorkshire club's shooting was in the same mould as Luton's — inaccurate.

Indeed, just before Stein tapped in the second 11 minutes after the break, Harford hooted the ball into the stand and it was he who dived to head Hill's cross only to miss and leave the South African-born striker a simple tap in.

Cox made some smart saves but most of the efforts were either straight at him or way off target. The nearest Huddersfield came to scoring was midway through the first half when Pugh fed to Cooper, whose shot hit a post.

Just before that Sealy had to dash 30 yards from his goal-line to chest the ball away from Lillis and clear.

Now Luton will be looking for a tie against a big-name club to boost their revenue as only 8,000 fans saw this one, while Huddersfield hope to keep in touch with the Second Division pacemakers.

Luton. — Sealey; Breacke, Thomas, Turner, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford, Daniel, Parker (Nawajobi 75mins).

Huddersfield. — Cox; Laws, Burke, Doyle, Stott, Allardyce, Lillis, Cooper (Winter 72), Pugh, Wilson, Cowling.