

Roberts' saving grace

Luton 2, Spurs 2

84/85

IF SPURS go on to win their first League title since 1961, they will surely look back with relief on the final six minutes of this exciting tussle at Kenilworth Road, writes Robert Alexander.

Trailing to an opportunist 48th minute goal by Brian Stein, the Londoners looked destined for a deserved defeat until Falco equalised with a shot on the turn, his 21st goal of the season, in the 84th minute.

Even then, battling Luton, marshalled by Foster and inspired by Hill, found the resources to go ahead again when Nwajiobi produced an unexpected half volley with the outside of his boot with three minutes left. But Roberts clouted a last minute point-saver for Spurs through a crowded goalmouth.

"We didn't play well, and we were lucky to scrape a point," Spurs manager Peter Shreeves admitted afterwards as Luton kicked themselves for missing the first-half chances that would have sealed their first win over Tottenham since David Pleat took over in 1978.

Luton were unlucky not to go ahead after four minutes when Stein, put through by a fine Hill pass, had a goal disallowed for offside, against Harford.

Stein, too busy and quick for the burly Roberts, was felled by the Spurs defender for the third time on the half hour and from the free-kick Nicholas hit a thunderous shot which Clemence deflected against the bar.

Nicholas, signed for £125,000 from Crystal Palace produced the right combative mid-field skills to balance Hill's surging runs and when both combined five minutes later, Stein wasted a clear opening with a shot that flew wide.

Spurs, with Hoddle subdued by Nicholas, and booked for a 39th minute foul on him, and with Galvin outplayed by Breacker, threatened only twice with a Crooks' header and a shot before the final excitement.

By then, however, Stein, sliding on to a drilled cross by Nwajiabi after Foster had headed on a Preece free-kick, had put Luton ahead.