

Stein turns on his magic

By **DON WATSON**

Luton 2 Man City 1

TWO-GOAL Brian Stein was the name on the lips of both managers.

City's Billy McNeill said: "He was a threat all the time. We could never really quieten him."

Luton's David Pleat said: "He was very sharp, especially in the first half. He could have had three more."

Hospital

And Pleat added: "Our football, in spells, was as good as when we beat Southampton 7-0."

The score flatters City, who were destroyed by the skill and speed of Stein and Hill and the midfield power of Nicholas.

McNeill admitted: "Luton are a good footballing side on this artificial surface." They know how to use the pitch."

City's cause wasn't helped when Wilson had to go off with mild concussion. Neither was Luton's when Nwajiobi limped off after having a toe kicked. Both were taken to hospital for precautionary checks.

Penalty

Stein cracked Luton into the lead, and how they took more than an hour to get their second, only City's beleaguered defenders know.

Luton were frequently playing virtual ping-pong against a mass of bodies in the penalty area.

Eventually City got the goal they deserved — a Lillis penalty after Breacker had brought down Power.

But they were never really in sight of Luton. City had the names in their line-up, but their achievement fell short of their promise.

LUTON: Sealey 7, Breacker 5, Elliott 6, Donaghy 6, Thomas 7, *HILL 8, Nicholas 7, Preece 7, Harford 6, Stein 7, Nwajiobi 5. Sub: Daniel 6.

MAN CITY: *NIXON 8, Reid 6, McCarthy 7, Johnson 6, Power 6, May 6, McNab 6, Phillips 7, Wilson 6, Lillis 6, Davies 5. Sub: Baker 7.

Ref: D. Axcell (Southend) 6.