



Chelsea's Doug Rougvie heads a centre over stranded Ricky Hill of Luton.

OH BABY! CHELSEA JOY DAY

ALL THE DRAMA happened away from the eyes of Stamford Bridge's 21,102, who yearned for some excitement to add to David Speedie's 55th minute winner. It began in the maternity ward with two important matters on Chelsea skipper Colin Pates's mind — the birth of his first child was imminent, and he was due to lead Chelsea in their latest quest for valuable Championship points.

The baby was late. Chelsea reshuffled and bang on the 3 p.m. kick-off time Pates's wife, Cathy, presented him with a daughter while his team mates safely delivered the points. But the victory that maintains the momentum of Chelsea's pursuit of a first London First Division championship win since 1971 came only after more drama in the dressing-room at half-time.



DAVID SPEEDIE

While Chelsea's supporters were wondering why Luton had enjoyed so much of the first-half play, John Hollins was hitting his players with some withering observations.

His message hit the right spot and changed their attitude.

And as the Chelsea boss reported later: "I had to have a few words. We were all over the shop. We just weren't getting it together at all and I said to them, 'Surely we can play better than this.'"

Winner

"We weren't getting close to them in that first half and like any side, if you give them room, Luton can play. We were watching them instead of doing anything about it. But I was pleased with the way we were able to change it in the second half."

The chance bought the winner for David Speedie, which was upsetting for Luton who missed chances in that first half. Ricky Hill was twice a culprit and young Mark North clouted the Chelsea bar.

Chelsea's main response had been a Speedie shot that Les Sealey pushed over the top to gasps of disbelief on the terraces . . . some power, some save.

But Sealey could not repel Speedie's next strike ten min-

by JAMES MOSSOP

Chelsea 1 Luton 0

utes into the second half. Chelsea goalkeeper Eddie Niedzwiecki lofted the ball from one penalty area to the other in the swirling wind.

Kerry Dixon flicked a header goalwards, Speedie had read his intentions perfectly and the finishing was in keeping with a Chelsea partnership that has registered 36 goals between them this season.

It was Speedie's 15th, and Dixon would be delighted for England manager Bobby Robson to see him in the role of creator.

Luton had no reply. No one could expect their inexperienced strikers, Mike Newell (making his debut after a £85,000 transfer from Wigan) or North (in his sixth First Division game), to match the Chelsea pair.

But Pleat had been talking over the half-time tea as well. He said: "At the interval I felt there was nothing to fear, and that if we kept playing our football we would get something."

"And I felt that if we could win we would really get among these up there in the table. We are a bit disappointed because we didn't think we were second best."

CHELSEA. — Niedzwiecki: Lee, Dublin, Rougvie, McLaughlin, Bumstead, Nevin, Spackman, Dixon, Speedie, Hazard. Sub: Canoville.

LUTON. — Sealey: Breacker, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Newell, North, Preece. Sub: Daniel.