

LUTON'S DAY AS SAINTS SUFFER

Top man joins the Hatters

TOP radio and newspaper journalist Colin Maitland is to be Luton Town's new public relations executive.

Executive director John Smith said: "The club is approaching the most exciting period in its history."

"There are major developments on the way, not least the revolutionary 'home fans only' policy which comes into effect next season."

"Colin's appointment emphasizes our determination to consolidate our position as a top-flight club — on and off the pitch."

Maitland has been a news and sports journalist and PR specialist for over 20 years.

He has been Capital Radio producer, and has broadcasted on Radio's Two, Four and was also sports writer for The Guardian.

Meanwhile, Bedfordshire schoolboy Julian James, 16, has been offered professional terms by the club.

Southampton 1 Luton 2

A FREAK penalty incident turned the game for Luton Town against Southampton.

Play was held up for five minutes after Mal Donaghy had felled Danny Wallace to concede the second spot kick, because the spot had disappeared.

Groundsmen were called for, and the spot had to be re-measured and marked before David Armstrong could take his kick.

The delay clearly jangled the nerves of Armstrong, who had already scored his side's only goal, and Les Sealey saved low to his right.

Armstrong looked likely to net the rebound, but it beat him and was put into touch. With it went Saints' chances of victory.

They looked resigned to a draw when, moments from the end, Mike Newell sent Brian Stein racing through.

From just inside the opposition half he ran on to score the winner with a shot off the diving body of Peter Shilton, that Stein ushered gleefully into the net.

It had all started well enough for Southampton.

On a pitch free from snow but looking hard on top, the sides were watched by television cameras, and the discerning eye of England World Cup-winning manager Sir Alf Ramsay.

Luton skipper Steve

By DOMINIC BIGGS

Foster — in an all-royal blue strip reminiscent of his Brighton days — played with his broken left hand heavily bandaged.

But fitness-tested Marc North was replaced. Rob Johnson was substitute.

In only the second minute Foster had to cover for Sealey and Saints had no one to take advantage of his half clearance.

The early play stayed with the home side, although Mark Wright brought a smart save from his England team mate Shilton, to prevent a lobbed own goal.

Then Luton began to put together an impressive sequence of moves involving six or seven players each time.

Stein was put clear through and blazed over. A Preece free kick, met by Foster, produced a fine save.

When Wright put his



● Mike Newell helps Brian Stein celebrate his winning goal.

keeper in jeopardy again, after 28 minutes, Shilton needed treatment for Harford's challenge.

It won the Luton player a corner. Preece swung the kick over and the dazed Shilton's tame punch eventually fell in some space to Newell, who eagerly swept the ball low past Shilton's right hand.

Southampton fought to get back on terms.

From a neat Jimmy

Case free kick, Wallace flicked over Hatters' defence and Steve Moran's angled strike from close in was well parried by Sealey.

The keeper made another important save to send Luton in ahead at half time.

Southampton, perhaps reminded of the 7-0 humiliation they took at Kenilworth Road, came out fighting.

Tim Breacker, booked

in the first half, brought down the lively Cockerill.

Wallace set up Moran, who thumped a post with Sealey standing helpless.

Dennis blasted over and Bond and Holmes got into the act with long shots, before a similar effort paid off for Armstrong.

He sent the ball scuttling in from 20 yards and Sealey,

wrongfooted on the difficult surface, could only deflect it into the net off his arm.

Five minutes later a long ball into the box produced the controversial penalty, ironically one of the least valid of a string of appeals lodged by Southampton throughout the match.

The run of play stayed with the home side until Stein's late winner

THE TEAMS — Southampton: Shilton, Forrest, Dennis, Case, Wright, Bond, Holmes, Cockerill, Moran, Armstrong, Wallace. Sub — Lawrence. Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford, Newell, Preece. Sub — Johnson.

Attendance: 13,740.

Oh lucky man

DAVID Pleat described himself as: "The luckiest man in the country," after Luton's win.

"I had no thoughts of winning that game when they took their penalty."

"Southampton were more aggressive in the second half. They had more of the game and I feel sorry for Chris Nicholl."

"But we have played a



● Pleat — lucky

couple of games where we deserved a result and got nothing. It was our day today."

Pleat said even the delay after the penalty incident — which looked offside — worked in his team's favour.

He praised injured skipper Foster and added that Thomas, Newell and Stein all took knocks.

Saints' manager Nicholl reported "only a few broken hearts," amongst his players, for failing to avenge their 7-0 defeat.