

Everton

85/86

(FAC)

appear invincible

By MICHAEL CALVIN

Luton ... 2, Everton ... 2

EVERTON'S development into the most complete team in British football, emphasised by their thrilling response to adversity at Kenilworth Road, makes them fitting favourites to win the F A Cup at least.

But the professional instincts of Howard Kendall, their much-admired manager, will prompt him to discourage debate about his team's potential to achieve the fabled domestic double.

Luton's loss of a two-goal lead, likely to be punished in Wednesday's quarter-final replay at Goodison Park, provided telling evidence of the intimidating nature of Everton's present air of invincibility.

Although their resistance was understandably undermined by the physical demands of their fourth game in eight days, Luton appeared significantly incapable of resisting the mental pressure applied by their opponents remorseless approach.

Too many players seemed to succumb to the temptation to recall last season's semi-final, when they were four minutes away from Wembley before they allowed Everton to illustrate their enduring resistance.

Invaluable reserves

Mr Kendall's major achievement this season, predictably recognised by clubs of the stature of Juventus—who are resigned to seeking a new manager—has been to harness individual ambition in a collective cause.

The adaptability of reserves of the calibre of Kevin Richardson and Alan Harper has proved invaluable in recent weeks, and the influence of Adrian Heath's personal frustration continues to be profound.

His speed of reaction, which penalised Steve Foster's momentary lack of control, resulted in a 77th minute aqualiser. He played a similarly important game-scoring role in last Tuesday's win at Tottenham yet insists he will leave the club in summer if he cannot be incorporated into the starting lineup.

Luton, who had built upon Mick Harford's 19th goal of the season through Mark Stein in the 63rd minute, were grateful for a replay, which became predictable once Graeme Sharp had reduced the deficit with a 65th-minute header.

LUTON.—Sealey; Johnson, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, M. Stein, Harford, King (North 68), Preece.

EVERTON.—Southall; Stevens, Pointe (Heath 65), Harper, Van den Hauw, Reid, Steven, Lineker, Sharp, Bracewell, Richardson.