

Out of luck!

85/86 (FAC)



Luton go down but Pleat says: No complaints

Everton.....1 Luton.....0; By COLIN WOOD

LUTON conceded a superb goal from sharp-shooter Gary Lineker to end their FA Cup hopes.

But manager David Pleat, whose side led 2-0 at home in Saturday's drawn quarter-final, had no complaints.

A dubious penalty given against them three minutes from half-time was saved, goalkeeper Les Sealey keeping out a Trevor Steven effort in this quarter-final replay.

'Fortunately the game wasn't won on the penalty award,' said Pleat. 'We are disappointed but we gave it our all. They had a 45,000 crowd on their side but we have no excuses. We were beaten by the top current team in the country but one real bonus for us over the past week has been the form of young Mark Stein.'

In fact, with a little luck, Luton might have forced extra-time because, just 13 minutes from the end, sub-

stitute Ray Daniel struck the post with a shot. But there was no denying the quality of Lineker's goal that sunk them.

The England striker, an £800,000 capture by Everton from Leicester last summer, produced the pace and precision that sets him apart from other forwards to transform a hopeful clearance from a team-mate into a marvellous goal after 16 minutes, his 33rd of the season.

Unbeaten

In the second half, as Everton faltered, they got through with a lot of effort and a little bit of luck to claim a semi-final place for the 21st time. On this occasion they have Sheffield Wednesday.

So on go Everton, unbeaten now in 16 games and leading the First Division by six points. Since they last went

down, to Leicester on December 14, they have played through all kinds of weather and conditions—even on the plastic pitch at Kenilworth Road.

They have gone from strength to strength even as their casualty list has grown. But even in the celebrations there were more injury worries. Peter Reid is back under treatment and will be struggling to make Sunday's big live TV clash with Chelsea.

Lineker's winner came when he accelerated to go between defenders Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy in a chase to catch a long clearance from Steven.

It was no contest really. They didn't have a chance of beating him to it and as Sealey came off his line he reached out with his right foot at full stretch and full speed and flicked the ball over the goalkeeper into the net.



GARY LINEKER