

Dazzler Hill puts Robson in shade

Luton 2 Man Utd 1: by PAUL PARISH

86/87

LUTON fans left Kenilworth Road believing Ricky Hill is better than United's England captain Bryan Robson. The trouble is they do not know for how long he'll be weaving his midfield magic in their colours.

Hero Hill carved United apart in a first-half spectacular, and laid on the two goals that sent United slipping to their first League defeat of the year.

But Luton manager John Moore stressed afterwards: "He has not agreed new terms and has been placed on the transfer list. We have had one enquiry and that's all.

"If I made a £200,000 enquiry for Bryan Robson, that wouldn't be an offer, It would be an insult."

Hill turned on the sorcery on Luton's magic carpet and left United wondering what was happening.

In the fourth minute, he tricked his way down the left before slipping a perfect pass to Peter Nicholas. His cross was met by Mick Harford, who celebrated his appointment as acting captain in the absence of injured Steve Foster with a neatly taken goal.

Luton's second goal, five minutes before half-time, was a gem. Hill combined with Brian Stein to carve open United's defence, Hill beating three men in an amazing run before setting Stein clear for the decisive punch.

Reeling

United were reeling and had Paul McGrath cautioned, and referee Ken Baker spoke to both Robson and Norman Whiteside.

Whiteside was cautioned in the second-half after a tackle on Tim Breacker, and United boss Alex Ferguson stormed: "We've got to do something about that, but I don't know what. I've no idea what the booking was for. It was an injustice."

One more caution for Whiteside will bring him his third suspension of the season.

But somehow, United staggered off the ropes, inspired by a brilliant double save by Gary Bailey from first, Stein and then Harford, before Robson scored a late consolation goal.