

Luton reach new heights

86/87

**Luton Town 3
Tottenham Hotspur 1**

by BOB HARRIS

IT'S a pity that England manager Bobby Robson was not at Kenilworth Road to see Luton achieve their highest ever placing in the first division when they climbed into third place with this win over Spurs.

Robson would have discovered that he must take on Northern Ireland in Belfast next week without his midfield maestro Glenn Hoddle but he might well have found an immediate replacement in Luton's superb Ricky Hill.

Hill figured prominently in Robson's early squads but injuries forced him into the shadows. Now he has emerged again as a truly gifted player, able to influence games with his own particular brand of skill.

How Spurs manager David Pleat must have wished he had been able to take Hill with him as well as Mitchell Thomas when he left Luton for Spurs.

It was a thoroughly frustrating game

Hill puts on super show

for Pleat as his new team failed to fire on all cylinders while his old boys really turned it on before the biggest league crowd of the season at Kenilworth Road.

Hill had a hand in every one of the Luton goals.

He showed his pace and skill on the slippery synthetic surface in the opening minutes when he exchanged passes with Mike Newell and crossed for his captain Mick Harford to score with a first-time shot past Clemence.

Hill was there again nine minutes into the second half, accepting a superb pass from Nicholas before linking with Stein for Newell to score the second.

Waddle, with the help of the limping Hoddle and substitute Ardiles, pulled

one back in the 62nd minute to set up a pulsating finish, but it was Hill who had the last word with a delightful run down the right and a perfect cross for McDonough to score the killer goal in the 86th minute.

Harford was booked for a disgraceful and wholly unnecessary foul on Stevens.

Nicholas, Sealey, and Richard Gough were also cautioned.

But despite the disappointment of a defeat on the very day that Liverpool lost at home to Wimbledon, Pleat retained his composure and said: "It's a marvellous result for football, especially having Luton Town up there with the big boys."

Luton's manager John Moore added: "It's a lovely moment for Luton to find themselves third in the first division. That was as good a performance as we have had all season."

Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, Nicholas, North, Donaghy, Hill, B. Stein, Newell, Harford, McDonough. **Sub:** M. Stein.

Tottenham: Clemence, Stevens, Thomas, Hodge, Gough, Mabbutt, C. Allen, P. Allen, Waddle, Hoddle, Claesen. **Sub:** Ardiles.