

WE WERE STUPID!

FUMING Jim Ryan emerged from the battle of White Hart Lane and stormed: "We were stupid."

The manager was furious that Hatters had nothing to show from their clash with nine-man Spurs.

And he was backed up by skipper John Dreyer, who raged: "We need our backsides kicked."

"It's our own fault, we had time and space and we didn't know what to do with it."

Ryan's anger was directed at a Luton team that ignored his pleas to step up the pace after Spurs' Nayim was sent off for swearing and then Pat Van den Hauwe for a disgusting tackle on Iain Dowie.

Though Hatters later had Ceri Hughes sent off, they gave Erik Thorstvedt an easy time in the Spurs goal and Ryan said: "It was a game we should have won."

"We played better when it was 11 versus 11. After the Spurs players were sent off we slowed down — our form went completely."

Ryan's blast as Hatters fail to tame 90/91 9-man Spurs

SPURS 2 LUTON 1
By MIKE WEINSTEIN

"We did not play the game at the correct speed."

Both Ryan and Spurs boss Terry Venables were guarded in their comments about 90 minutes of football that had been a shocking advert for the game.

There was much to admire about Spurs' comeback from an Iain Dowie strike.

But the match was totally overshadowed by the behaviour of the players.

The touch paper for an explosive first-half was lit after just two minutes when Steve Williams embedded his studs in David Howells' thigh.

Gary Lineker went down as if he'd been shot under challenge from Darron McDonough leaving the centre back the first of many entries into David Elleray's book.

Kingsley Black swung the ball over for Dowie to sidefoot past Thorstvedt after 12 minutes.

The hostilities continued with a Steve Sedgley tackle on Dowie that earned the Spurs defender a yellow card and the striker joined him in the book for lashing out angrily.

Then it was Nayim's turn, following a dreadful tackle on Richard Harvey.

The Spanish midfielder repeated the offence nine minutes later and, instead of thanking his lucky stars that he'd escaped an early bath, uttered a few choice swear words to Elleray and was sent packing.

Paul Gascoigne provided a rare moment of football when he glided past three defenders and centred for Paul Stewart to nod home the equaliser.

But then the madness continued as Van den Hauwe — who'd been marauding up and down the left wing like a headless chicken — crashed into Dowie with the most appalling challenge I've ever seen, and had the cheek to look hard done by when he was dismissed.

There was still time before the break for Marvin Johnson to go



● **Bursting through** — Ceri Hughes takes on the Spurs rearguard.

SPURS: Thorstvedt, Thomas, Van den Hauwe, Sedgley, Howells, Mabbutt, Stewart, Gascoigne, Nayim, Lineker (Samways 74), Walsh (Allen 68).

LUTON: Chamberlain, Johnson, Harvey, Williams, McDonough (Beaumont 84), Dreyer, Elstrup (Farrell 62), Preece, Dowie, Hughes, Black.

● **Referee:** David Elleray.

● **Attendance:** 27,007.

into the book for a crude challenge on Paul Walsh.

Stewart bundled in the winner from a Gazza corner after 58 minutes but seconds later Elleray was waving the red card again.

This time it was at Ceri Hughes for a foul on Lineker well after the referee had blown for a foul, though the youngster claimed: "I did not hear the whistle and I didn't make contact with Lineker."

Gascoigne was allowed to continue to mock and swear at the referee unchecked for the rest of the game which was summed up by the actions of Spurs' assistant boss Doug Livermore, who frightened the life out of a ball boy with his screams for the youngster to waste time.