

Johnson sent off as Luton suffer

By Colin Malam

Luton Town.....0 Tottenham Hotspur.....0

LUTON'S Marvin Johnson was sent off, and their chairman, Peter Nelkin, abused by home fans yesterday, as the Bedfordshire club failed to make a significant improvement in their perilous position on the brink of the First Division relegation zone.

Full-back Johnson was shown the red card by replacement referee Roger Wiseman, of Borehamwood, after 72 minutes for deliberately handling the ball. It was a second bookable offence, following the caution Johnson had received for a foul on Nayim three minutes earlier.

Johnson will now miss the crucial home game against Sunderland, the team just below them, on April 20. "I don't think the referee was of a particularly high standard throughout," said Luton manager Jim Ryan.

By then Luton had wasted a number of scoring chances,

including a penalty awarded to them rather generously by Mr Wiseman for Samways's challenge on Pembridge. Dreyer, their captain, missed from the spot for the first time this season when he hit the crossbar.

With Luton dominating a poor match, Black and Pembridge both shot wide from good positions, while Farrell was unlucky to see his shot drift inches wide.

Farrell had been the second of five players to be booked—Rodger, Samways, Moncur and Johnson being the others—for running after the referee and pushing him when he refused, rightly it seemed, to give Luton an early penalty.

Luton Town: Chamberlain; Johnson, Harvey, Rees (Beaumont 73), Rodger, Dreyer, Elstrup (Nogan 45), Preece, Farrell, Pembridge, Black.

Tottenham Hotspur: Thorstvedt; Thomas, Van den Hauwe, Tuttle, Nayim, Mabbutt, Stewart, Samways, Moncur, Walsh, Allen.

Referee: R Wiseman (Borehamwood).