

Pleat protests as Luton are denied

91/92

ANGRY Luton manager David Pleat spent 10 minutes protesting to Liverpool referee Kevin Breen after his side's 4-0 hammering.

Pleat was furious at Manchester City's third goal by David White.

Luton goalkeeper Steve Sutton threw the ball tamely towards White, believing a linesman's flag had been raised for offside. But White calmly slotted the ball home.

Afterwards Pleat said: "I was very upset with the goal, but you have to accept the referee's decision. Football's about three teams and I was not happy with the third.

"I was delighted with our play and thought we should have been three up at half-time but their 'keeper did well and we must learn to accept chances."

The game was held up for about three minutes while

Manchester City 4 Luton 0

by Derek Potter

the referee consulted the linesman but the 48th-minute goal stood.

Mr Breen had shouted "Play on". White said: "I heard the referee and didn't stop running." He calmly rolled in his 17th goal of the season from 40 yards.

Twisted

Luton must have known it was not their day when Tony Coton acrobatically saved from Brian Stein.

Coton was off balance and looked beaten when he twisted to fist Stein's first-half shot over the bar.

"That save kept us in the game," admitted City manager Peter Reid, after his side's biggest win of the season took them to third place.

He added sympathetically: "I can understand Luton being annoyed at that goal."

Pleat probably waived a complaint about David White's first "as one of those things." White had looked suspiciously offside when he broke quickly in the 14th-minute to chase Niall Quinn's astute pass.

Defender Andy Hill drilled in City's second after 47 minutes, converting a back-header by Quinn. Adrian Heath, a replacement for a jaded-looking Reid, can thank White for the 77th-minute chance to end an embarrassing 18 months without a League goal.

MANCHESTER CITY: Coton, Hill, Pointon, Reid (w'drn 67, sub Heath), Curle, Redmond, White, Brightwell, Quinn, McMahon, Hughes (w'drn 75, sub Sheron).

LUTON: Sutton, James (w'drn 78, sub Hughes), Harvey, Kamara, Dreyer, Peake, Telfer (inj 45, sub Oakes), Stein, Harford, Pembridge, Preece.
REFEREE: K. Breen (Liverpool).