

Adams rescues Argyle late on



LUTON TOWN1

Coyne (42)

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE1

Adams (90)

BY RICHARD MANCHESTER

A stoppage time equaliser kept Plymouth on track for the Second Division championship and saved the unbeaten record of caretaker-manager Kevin Sumerfield.

But they were made to fight all the way by a determined Luton side, who have promotion ambitions of their own and who came so close to victory despite being down to 10 men for the last 44 minutes of the match.

Kevin Nicholls was sent off, accused of using an elbow on Nathan Lowndes, who went down in a heap and required

prolonged treatment before being jeered mercilessly for the rest of his time on the pitch.

Luton manager Mike Newell said: "I didn't see the incident at all, but the referee said Nicholls put his forearm into the lad's face. If that's the case he deserved to be sent off."

"But their man made a meal of it and that upsets me. I get really annoyed when a player goes down and makes a meal of it. It's not a man's game any more. But if Nicholls is guilty of violent conduct he let us all down and we will deal with it."

Luton had taken the lead after 42 minutes when Chris Coyne ambled up from defence for a set-piece and the Plymouth rearguard, so expert at dealing with Luton's front-runners, were caught sweeping as Coyne rose at the far post for a header from a free kick by Steve Robinson.

After Nicholls's departure Luton battled hard. Newell said: "Having had the better of the first half and created more chances I had felt we deserved



Charging to glory: Luton's Steve Robinson, right, charges past Plymouth's hero Steve Adams

the lead and to concede a goal so late left us all feeling gutted. We thought we had got there and I felt we had done enough to win."

Plymouth threw everyone forward in a series of late, desperate second-half attacks but were let down by some poor finishing and good defending.

Attacking pair Lowndes and Micky Evans were subbed with 15 minutes to go but their replacements Blair Sturrock and Marino Keith fared little better in front of goal.

But with over three minutes of stoppage time played Steve Adams headed the equaliser from a corner by Paul Wotton.

Caretaker-boss Sumerfield said: "The game lasts for 90

minutes and I'm absolutely delighted the boys kept going. But conditions spoiled it as a spectacle because in the swirling wind some areas of the pitch were virtually impossible to play in. But at this time of year it's not going to be a spectacle when both teams have so much to play for. But I have to admit that we were a little disappointing and I am relieved to have got a point out of it."

Plymouth had only themselves to blame for not wrapping it the match up earlier with Keith, Martin Phillips and David Norris all wasting acceptable chances although the best had come in the first half when David Friio

put a free header well wide when he should have given Argyle a lead which might have settled them down.

LUTON		PLYMOUTH	
53	Possession %	47	
8	Corners	5	
7	Offsides	7	
10	Fouls	9	
2	Yellows	1	
1	Reds	0	
3	Shots On	5	
2	Shots Off	8	
0	Hit Woodwork	0	

LUTON: Hyldgaard 7, Neilson 7, Coyne 7 (Davies 48), Boyce 7, Keane 6, Nicholls 5, Robinson 9, Hughes 7, Holmes 7, Showunmi 7 (Crowe 87), Howard 7.

PLYMOUTH: McCormick 6, Connolly 7, Coughlan 7, Wotton 6, Gilbert 7, Friio 6, Adams 7, Norris 6, Capaldi 5 (Phillips 54), Evans 6 (Sturrock 77), Lowndes 6 (Keith 77).