

GLAD HATTERS!



TOP HAT!—Brian Stein (second right) beats Phil Parkes, the West Ham 'keeper, to help put Luton a point clear of the Second Division pack. And that's him (below) celebrating the the all-important goal

JOHN LYALL slammed his depleted side after Luton had soared to the top of the Second Division for the third time this season.

"That was a sloppy performance," said the Hammers boss after their first defeat in seven games.

"We gave the ball away and earned no credit from the game. We did not deserve to take a point."

West Ham, minus injured England international Trevor Brooking, Stuart Pearson, Paul Brush and Alan Devonshire, did not lose in the style of the old school of players at the Upton Park soccer academy.

Lead

Luton, fired by Elre international Tony Grealish and Alan West, were slow-hand-clapped by the 25,000 crowd for time-wasting, but never looked like surrendering the two-goal lead they gained in the first 35 minutes.

Grealish made nonsense of the independent tribunal's £150,000 transfer rating of him—he looked nearer Orient manager Jimmy Bloomfield's £350,000 valuation.

He had an accolade too, for Godfrey Ingram, who deputised for injured marksman

Luton top as Lyall lashes out

By DENNIS SIGNY
West Ham 1 Luton 2

Bob Hatton. "Just like a young Laurie Cunningham," said Grealish who played with the Real Madrid star at Orient.

Luton boss David Pleat warned the other First Division aspirants: "We can play." Early proof came when Grealish's defence-splitting pass sent Kirk Stephens through on the right. Phil Parkes beat away the young defender's shot.

But there was nothing Parkes could do about Brian Stein's close-range first goal of the season, a crisp 16th minute shot from a Paul Price cross.

It was an afternoon of firsts—Mick Saxby collecting both his first goal and his first caution for Luton.

His free header, from a David Moss free kick after 35 minutes, deceived Parkes, who seemed to have the ball covered at the near post.

Saxby, who arrived at Luton from Mansfield under suspension, argued after pushing David Cross and was booked for dissent. Ricky Hill too was booked, for tripping Pat Holland.

The turning point came when Cross put a chance over after 51 minutes.

England youth skipper Paul Allen scored his first goal for Hammers after 63 minutes, a flashing 20-yard shot when Jake Findlay pushed the ball out, but it did not spark the expected West Ham revival.

Alvin Martin nearly equalised with a header and West booted the ball just wide of the post to concede a corner, but Findlay was rarely in bother.

West Ham, with Billy Lansdowne out of touch and barracked by the fans, supplied little threat. The only good news for Hammers fans was that Brooking, Pearson and Devonshire should be fit to play at Notts County next week.

WEST HAM.—Parkes 6. STEWART 8. Lampard 6. Bonds 7. Martin 7. Holland 7. Allen 7. Lansdowne 5. Cross 5. Pike 7. Neighbour 6.

LUTON.—Findlay 6. Stephens 7. Donaghy 7. GREALISH 9. Saxby 7. Price 6. Hill 6. West 8. Stein 7. Ingram 7. Moss 6.



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