

REVENGE IS SWEET FOR EURO-CHASERS

LUTON licked the Toffeemen and even at this early stage must begin to fancy their chances of European football next season.

Saturday's points-plundering exercise hauled the Hatters up to seventh place in the league, just three points adrift from the top spot.

It would be easy to point to the moment of Paul Walsh magic in the 76th minute which won the game.

But the real explanation for Luton's success was the performance of the back four, a unit that is looking tighter with each game.

It bears little resemblance to the defence whose sieve-like qualities so nearly cost Hatters their First Division place last season.

Rising England star Paul Elliott had another outstanding game and with Mal Donaghy alongside, Everton never really got close enough to Sealey's goal to present a significant threat.

Overall the home side had the lion's share of the play but were restricted to long range efforts.

Luton clearly arrived at Goodison with the intention of keeping Everton at bay, to the extent

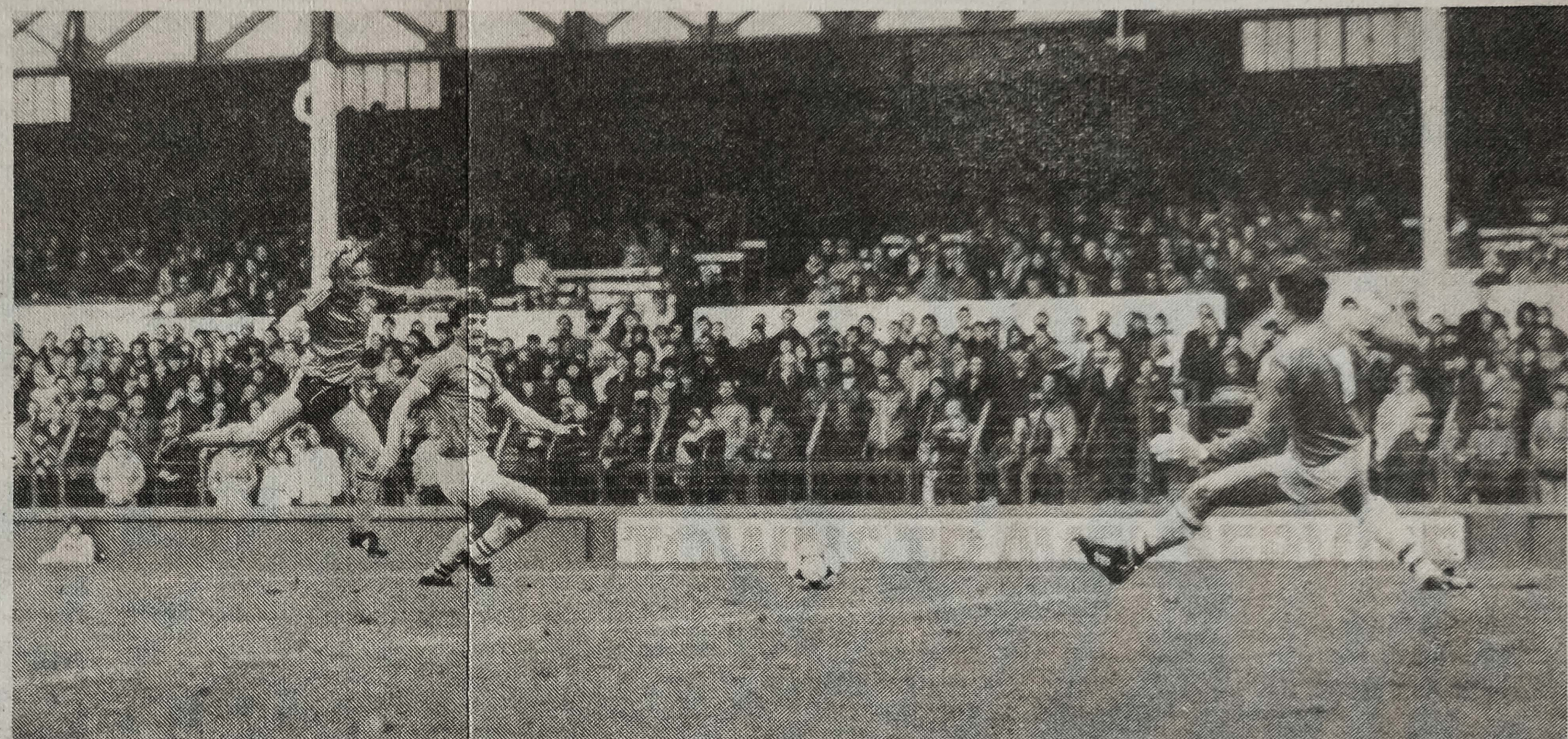
**EVERTON 0
LUTON 1**
Walsh

of naming reserve full-back Mitchell Thomas as substitute in favour of striker Trevor Aylott or midfielder Raddy Antic.

There was a surprise too in the Everton line-up where former Hatter Andy King, out of the Goodison team following a bout of pneumonia, was included.

The strength of Ricky Hill in midfield was a major factor in Luton's success on a day when players needed the resilience to fight off the conditions as well as the opposition.

The sodden pitch mitigated against



● Golden goal! Paul Walsh slips the ball past Neville Southall for Luton's winner at Goodison Park.

Luton's flowing style, with the ball stopping short and then skidding on in unpredictable fashion.

The shortage of consecutive passing movements understandably failed to please the crowd.

In one sense the conditions were made for Walsh whose poise and balance enable him to dance round defenders on the trickiest of surfaces.

Ironically it was Walsh who spurned the best chance of the game after 33 minutes when he scooped the ball over the bar from six yards.

The opportunity was created by David Moss, back in the side after a rapid recovery from a severe hamstring injury.

The game plodded on with only speculative long-range efforts from both sides before Brian

Stein set off on a mazy run, leaving four defenders for dead before whacking the ball just wide of the goal.

Then when a draw seemed inevitable Walsh jinked past two men to make a goal out of nothing.

It was sweet revenge against a team that thrashed Luton twice last season, scoring 10 goals in the process.

EVERTON: Southall, Harper, Bailey, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Reid, Stevens, Heath, Sharp, King, Sheedy. Sub: Richards.

LUTON: Sealey, Stephens, Elliott, Donaghy, Turner, Hill, Horton, Bunn, Stein, Walsh, Moss. Sub: Thomas.

CANON LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Man Utd.....	9	4	0	1	10	3	2	1	1	7	8	19
West Ham	9	4	0	1	16	6	2	0	2	4	4	18
Q.P.R.	9	3	1	0	8	2	2	1	2	9	6	17
Southampton	8	3	1	0	5	0	2	1	1	4	2	17
Liverpool.....	9	2	1	1	4	3	3	1	1	7	3	17
Ipswich.....	9	3	0	2	14	7	2	1	1	6	4	16
LUTON	9	3	1	0	11	3	2	0	3	5	5	16
Aston Villa	9	5	0	0	8	3	0	1	3	4	7	16
Tottenham	9	1	1	2	4	6	3	1	1	11	8	14
Coventry	9	2	1	1	6	5	2	1	2	7	9	14
West Brom	9	3	1	0	5	1	1	1	3	8	13	14
Birmingham	9	4	0	0	6	1	0	2	3	3	9	14
Notts F.....	9	3	1	1	9	6	2	0	2	6	6	16
Arsenal.....	9	2	0	3	7	7	2	0	2	6	4	12
Everton.....	9	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	4	5	12
Sunderland.....	9	2	2	1	7	7	1	0	3	2	8	11
Norwich.....	9	1	1	2	8	7	1	2	2	6	8	9
Watford	9	1	1	3	10	12	1	1	2	5	5	8
Stoke.....	9	2	0	2	6	7	0	2	3	4	11	8
Notts Co	9	1	0	3	2	8	1	0	4	7	11	6
Wolves.....	9	0	2	3	5	11	0	0	4	2	11	2
Leicester.....	8	0	1	3	2	12	0	0	4	3	8	1

(● After the weekend's games)