

MAGICAL MO

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LITTLE Mo Johnston served up yet another ace to bring Watford back from the dead and force this derby Cup tie into a replay at Vicarage Road on Tuesday night.

Scots goal grabber Johnston, with nine goals in 10 games since signing from Partick Thistle, netted coolly from the penalty spot to complete a fighting first half recovery by Watford after they had trailed by two goals.

Afterwards, manager Graham Taylor revealed: "It was his decision entirely to take the kick even though John Barnes was successful with our last penalty against Tottenham."

Now Watford must fancy their chances of overturning recent form against their local rivals which has seen Luton lose only once in 10 meetings.

But Taylor warned: "We must not kid ourselves that we have done all the hard work already. Luton are a talented

Luton 2 Watford 2 : by WILLIAM PIERCE

side and the replay will be just as hard."

Luton looked in danger of being overwhelmed early on as Watford ploughed forward. Yet after 28 minutes it was Luton who were incredibly two goals to the good.

Mistake

Their Nigerian discovery, Emeka Nwajobi, playing only his second senior game, fired them in front after 20 minutes when fullback David Bardsley compounded his mistake of losing the ball in midfield by getting back just in time to help the winger's shot into the net.

Then eight minutes later, Brian Stein lashed at Paul Walsh's pass and saw the shot go in off defender Steve Sims.

But Watford had enjoyed so much dominance that it was no surprise to see them dig in

to their known resources of character to turn the game round.

Yet another deflection, this time off Luton skipper Brian Horton, soon put them back in with a chance although John Barnes will take the credit for a wickedly curling free kick.

Then ten minutes later Johnston buried the equaliser from the spot after Barnes's dribble was ended by a trip from Kirk Stephens.

Johnston nearly had the last word when his header was brilliantly kept out by Les Sealey and in the closing seconds Nigel Callaghan put a shot on top of Luton's bar.

LUTON.—Sealey; Stephens, Thomas, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Bunn, Nwajobi. Sub: Antic.

WATFORD.—Sherwood; Bardsley, Rostron, Taylor, Sims, Franklin, Callaghan, Johnston, Reilly, Jackott, Barnes. Sub: Sinnott.