

Cottee double keeps West Ham hopes alive

By DAVID LUDDY

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West Ham 3, Luton 1

TONY COTTEE struck twice as West Ham revived their hopes of qualifying for Europe next season with a bubbling performance against Luton at Upton Park last night.

The two sides, who between them had achieved just three wins in their previous 28 matches, made a mockery of the statistics with some fine football.

But it needed experienced campaigners, Trevor Brooking and Billy Bonds, of West Ham, and Brian Horton, of Luton, to produce the artistic touches in an all-action match.

Brooking combined his subtle skills with the youthful exuberance of Allen and Barnes. But

it was Tony Cottee who fired West Ham in front midway through the opening half.

Allen created the opening and also provided the cross just before half time when central defender Alvin Martin easily headed home to give West Ham a 2-0 lead.

Little resistance

Stein, the Luton striker, whose form has shown a remarkable decline since his recent disappointing England debut against France, produced two firm shots forcing Parkes to full-length saves.

Parker, Bunn and Walsh offered little midfield resistance after the break and West Ham swept forward. Stewart, Brookings and Barnes all had shots saved by the acrobatic Sealey.

However, West Ham continued to dominate and although Walsh missed an easy close-range chance, Cottee cracked in his second goal of the night 10 minutes from time to make it 3-1.

But in a rare Luton attack, Bunn's persistence paid dividends on the edge of the box and Walsh converted his 13th goal of the season from close range.

West Ham. — Parkes; Stewart, Walford, Bonds, Martin, Barnes, Allen, Cottee, Swindlehurst, Brookings, Pike.

Luton. — Sealey; Stevens, Thomas, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Parker, Stein, Walsh, Bunn (Goodyear, 75), Moss.