

# Fine, Fozz

SKIPPER Steve Foster kept Luton's Wembley hopes alive by demonstrating the kind of determination that has become his trademark. Stoke were leading by a 78th-minute goal from Ian Painter when Foster surged up four minutes from time to bolster a Luton attack that had never looked confident. Brian Stein centred, Meka Nwajiobi's shot was blocked, but Foster roared through the packed penalty area to smash a left-foot equaliser.

It was Foster's second goal since his £70,000 transfer from Aston Villa last month. He looks like proving a magnificent bargain for Luton.

Foster celebrated his goal with humour and honesty. "It's the first I've ever scored with my left foot, which is usually numb from the knee down. So luck had a lot to do with it," he said.

"I didn't have time to get it onto my right and just swung it. The ball could have gone out of the ground."

Foster led Brighton to the

Luton 1 Stoke 1: by PHILIP OSBORN (FAC)

FA Cup Final two seasons ago. And he can see comparisons to cheer his new team mates.

"Our run at Brighton started with a late goal at home that earned us a replay and perhaps the same thing could follow with Luton," he said.

"This Luton side certainly has the skill for a Cup run and my own experience today suggests we might have the luck as well."

## Qualities

But it was Forster's fine defensive qualities that were most in evidence as Luton were stretched to contain Stoke.

With Alan Hudson called in for his first full appearance since November and Sammy McIlroy always ready to move the ball crisply, Stoke were dominant for most of the first half.

Twice Luton 'keeper Les Sealey had to race yards out of his penalty area to deny first Keith Bertschin, then Paynter.

When Luton threatened they found Brendan O'Callaghan a resolute defender. And it looked as though the odds would swing against Stoke when O'Callaghan was carried

off with concussion in the 74th minute.

But four minutes later Stoke went ahead when Mark Chamberlain laid on the chance for nimble-footed Painter to shoot in.

## On the line

After Foster's equaliser, Luton came close to snatching a last-minute winner when a Mal Doneghy header beat goalkeeper Stewart Roberts.

But the always alert Hudson was there on the line to head clear and set up Wednesday's replay.

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