## Cally's goal kills off the Hatters

BUDGET Day when ON everything else seemed to go up Luton's fortunes took a dive.

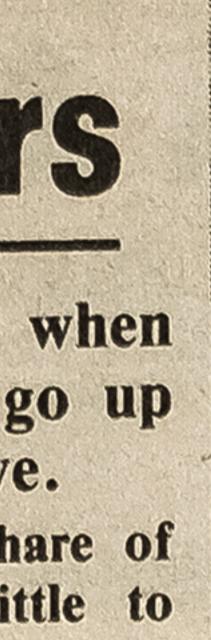
Despite enjoying the lion's share of possession Hatters produced little to worry keeper Coton, while Watford way.

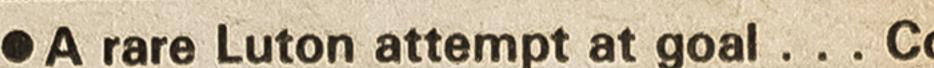
A suspect penalty decision allowed Watford to get in front and then a brilliant individual goal from Nigel sealed Callaghan Luton's fate before a late Blissett goal flattered the home side.

"It was disappointing," said David Pleat. "They looked ragged and we looked confident. We had more possession than in any of the cup games with Watford. We kept playing our football after the penalty but the second goal was crucial. However, there's no excuses."

defeat by Chelsea. "We were nervous but the bringing in second goal settled us to put the Chelsea game behind us."

The two sides, so recently battling for recognised glory in the cup, were on Tuesday fighting to





seized on the chances that came their A rare Luton attempt at goal . . . Coton dives but Harford's shot goes the wrong side of the post.

# COSTLY BUDGET DAY FOR LUTTON

#### WATFORD 3 LUTON 0 By GRAHAM PUNTER

avoid becoming trapped in the relegation zone.

Luton made one Graham Taylor ad- change from the side mitted his side looked that drew at Hillsborapprehensive after Sat- ough on Saturday, striker Gilligan and full- Coton fielded a longurday's 3-1 home naming Meka Nwajiobi back Bardsley. as substitute and Garry That gave Parker. down and we were glad Hatters four across the midfield, with Preece wide and playing supporting the only two strikers, Stein and Harford.

Taylor, keen to get

back to form after Luton's best chance, Saturday's debacle, left screwing his shot wide out Sinnott and Lohman after a one-two with and rejigged the side to Stein. Foster sent a accommodate the big header over the bar and

Luton's formation gave them clear supremacy against the two-man midfield of Watford but they paid the price for dominating this department with shortcomings in the frontline.

Mick Harford had

range shot from Parker.

### Covering

Hatters seemed on course for a victory built on patience but it all went wrong after 26 minutes. Mal Donaghy was quick to head out of defence but the clearance was indecisive.

The centre-back was now out of position as the ball was played forward to Blissett and the covering player, slipped Mitchell Thomas, was Luton and as international.

Thomas

that he never touched the Watford man but referee Trevor Spencer had no hesitation.

Luton kept their shape and composure and continued as if nothing had happened, again making Watford do the chasing with some confident passing bring the 14,111 crowd in midfield.

But after 74 minutes, the Watford goalmouth surgery for Saturday's was cleared up to home match with QPR. winger delivered the Bardsley, Terry, McClel- bi. sweetest of shots from 25 yards to leave Sealey groping.

The game away judged to have pulled pushed forward Blissett down the England stole away a minute from time to score protested Watford's third to

#### BOTTOM SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	WATFORD29	5	4	5	30	25	3	6	6	22	29	34
	Sunderland30								P			
	West Ham27	5	5	5	19	17	3	4	5	16	24	33
_	Coventry29											
	Ipswich27											
_	LUTON28											
	Stoke29											

to their feet.

Despite the defeat, with Luton waiting to Pleat saw optimistic Barnes. Sub: Porter. bring on third striker signs in the performance

land, Rostron, Taylor, Callaghan, Jackett, Blissett, Gilligan, LUTON: Sealey, Breac-Nwajiobi, a scramble in and predicted no major ker, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas, Parker, Hill, Nicholas, Preece, Stein, Callaghan and the WATFORD: Coton, Harford. Sub: Nwajio-



 Mitchell Thomas ... protest