

Luton 3, Ipswich 1

LUTON not only managed to take three points off their fellow sufferers in the relegation zone, but distanced themselves by five points following this 3-1 success. 84/85

Yet it might well have been so different had the Suffolk side managed to capitalise on their initial domination, which almost produced a goal from Kevin Wilson's header as early as the second minute.

Les Sealey saved this effort and though Wilson had two further chances, Ipswich failed and it was Luton who came close to taking the lead when Mick Harford headed one off the bar. Harford was not to be denied, but he was kept waiting in frustration until after Eric Gates crashed in a strong 20-yard drive to put Luton behind in the 18th minute.

On the stroke of the half hour, Harford, who had command of the aerial encounters in the Ipswich penalty area, nodded the equaliser over Paul Cooper's head and two minutes before the break Meka Nwajiobi flicked Luton into the lead following neat work by Brian Stein.

Their half-time advantage was well merited as Hill had cracked the far post with a cross-shot just minutes before Luton's second goal.

It was Nwajiobi who prompted the other Hatters' goal, although it was turned into a chance only after a disastrous error by England centre-back Terry Butcher. He failed to cut out the Nigerian's through pass and Harford was on hand to seal the match for Luton in the 65th minute with his second and Luton's third.