

OK, Harford

MICK HARFORD, Luton's £250,000 signing from Birmingham, grabbed two of the three Luton goals that could keep the FA Cup semi-finalists in the First Division—and send Ipswich tumbling into the Second.

But it was nearly disaster for Luton who were clearly out of their depth in the first 20 minutes as Eric Gates created havoc in a hesitant defence.

Ipswich deserved the lead but then Luton boss David Pleat made a tactical move that effectively snuffed out the danger of Gates.

He switched Peter Nicholas on to mark Gates, giving Brian Stein the kind of role that Gates had been enjoying for Ipswich. And the move worked to perfection.

Steel

"They were beating us tactically in the first 20 minutes," Pleat said. "I made an adjustment and the lads responded terrifically."

There can be no doubt that the tall Harford has added steel to Luton's strike force. An outstanding header of the ball and an adroit passer on the ground, he proved a handful that Ipswich simply couldn't manage.

It really did look like a stroll for Ipswich as they took command from the start with Kevin Wilson and Gates causing problems.

They went ahead when a corner was pushed into the path of Gates by Trevor Putney and the little Ipswich player coolly drove the ball past Luton keeper Les Sealey from 25 yards.

But after Harford had headed against the Ipswich crossbar from a corner Luton scored their equaliser.

Stein sparked the goal with a pass to David Preece and his high centre was headed home by Harford with Ipswich

Luton, their confidence restored, took complete control and their killer second goal came at a crucial time—two minutes before the interval. Stein was again

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involved, pushing the ball through to Emeka Nwajobi who prodded it under Coopuer's body into the net. Harford the opportunity to wrap the game up with a shot from 20 yards.

Luton went 3—1 ahead in the 67th minute and the blame could be laid fairly and squarely on the broad shoulders of Terry Butcher. He failed to trap a ball which slid under his boot giving