

Harford takes some beating



MICK HARFORD

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	34	23	6	5	77	36	75
Man Utd	36	19	8	9	68	39	65
Tottenham	36	19	7	10	66	41	64
Liverpool	34	17	9	8	52	26	60
Southmptn	36	17	9	10	49	42	60
Sheff Wed	36	15	14	7	52	37	59
Arsenal	38	17	8	13	56	44	59
Nottm For	36	17	6	13	52	42	57
Chelsea	36	15	11	10	53	40	56
Aston Villa	37	13	10	14	49	54	49
Q.P.R.	37	12	11	14	45	56	47
Leicester	37	13	6	18	59	63	45
W.B.A.	37	13	6	18	47	57	45
Newcastle	38	11	12	15	50	66	45
Watford	35	11	11	13	64	61	44
Norwich	36	11	9	16	41	56	42
Luton	34	11	8	15	46	55	41
West Ham	34	10	11	13	42	54	41
Ipswich	35	10	9	16	37	51	39
Sunderland	37	10	9	18	37	51	39
Coventry	34	11	4	19	36	54	37
Stoke	35	3	8	24	20	73	17

Luton2

Man. United1

By COLIN GIBSON

forward who makes use of his weight.

Harford needed his bulk to head the last minute winner in a game which suggested United's thoughts have shifted from the title to the FA Cup Final.

After Steve Foster's thunderous free kick had hit the bar, Harford held off McGrath in a desperate goal-mouth struggle

Harford had given Luton the

lead in the 68th minute from the penalty spot after Bailey had body checked Brian Stein.

With Steve Foster controlling Hughes and Frank Stapleton and the tenacious Peter Nicholas curbing Norman Whiteside, Luton were never under any real pressure until after they scored. United put on immediate pressure and just three minutes after Harford's penalty, Whiteside claimed the equaliser.

After the disappointment of Harford's last-minute goal United boss Ron Atkinson refused to concede the title but admitted: 'Overall that was our least impressive performance for a long time.'

DAVID PLEAT readily admits that he hated having to pay Birmingham £250,000 for powerful centre forward Mick Harford.

But yesterday in front of millions of TV viewers and with the delirious support of 10,320 fans the transfer fee looked like the bargain of the season.

Harford's impact eased Luton's annual relegation fears and ended Manchester United's yearly championship ambitions.

His two goals against United took his total in the last six games to eight and were his first against the Old Trafford side. He said: 'I regard it as a great feat, they're always a good side.'

Harford overshadowed the highly acclaimed Mark Hughes and gave United's young central defensive pairing of Paul McGrath and Graham Hogg one of their most uncomfortable afternoons of the season.

Exciting

His presence has brought the best out of Luton's young strikers and looks almost certain to ensure that Pleat's exciting side will continue their development in the First Division.

Pleat said: 'You won't see a better centre forward unless you go to South America. I have not seen a centre half who has not been troubled by him this season and it is the first time I have had a centre