

# Luton look up as United crash

# MIGHTY

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**MICK HARFORD**, the giant Geordie with the killer touch, yesterday made a bit of history when Luton needed it most.

The relegation-threatened club had never beaten United in David Pleat's seven years as manager.

While the Kenilworth Road audience of 10,320 was the lowest-ever for a live television match, millions of viewers saw Harford's one-two strike—his second goal coming in the last minute—end United's fading championship dream.

The team that manager Ron Atkinson takes to Wembley for the FA Cup final next month are still ten points behind champions-elect Everton with only six games remaining.

Luton's win, against a side who looked as if they had already accepted their First Division season is over, lifts them three places up the table.

On this form they can and will survive.

Harford, a £250,000 buy from Birmingham, has scored eight goals in the last six games and Pleat says: "I haven't seen a better centre forward this season. You would have

# MICK

By **HARRY MILLER**  
**Luton 2, Manchester Utd 1**

to go to South America to see better than Mick.

"To be honest, I don't feel like a manager in trouble. We are playing with optimism, and if we carry on like this we will be OK."

For much of the first half Luton were denied by the brilliance of Gary Bailey.

United's Norman Whiteside in that time was spoken to on three occasions by referee Tom Bune for fouls.

Peter Nicholas then saw

his 30-yard blast pushed over by Bailey before Luton made the breakthrough after 68 minutes.

Bailey was the culprit as he brought down Stein in the penalty box and Harford scored from the spot.

Pleat, mindful of what happened when Luton played Millwall in the FA Cup, angrily ushered celebrating fans from the pitch.

Three minutes later United equalised. Following an Arnold Muhren corner Paul McGrath headed forward in a crowded goalmouth and Whiteside shot past Sealey.

The winner, in the closing seconds, followed a blistering 20-yard free kick from Steve Foster. The ball crashed back off the crossbar and in the hectic scramble that followed Harford forced a header over the line.



**TOP HATTER:** A young fan salutes Luton hero Mick Harford. Picture: MONTE FRESCO

## Scare for Everton

**TREBLE-CHASING** Everton, now almost certain for the League championship after United's defeat at Luton, have fitness doubts over Peter Reid, Gary Stevens and Derek Mountfield before Wednesday's European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final second leg against Bayern Munich at Goodison.

Mersey rivals Liverpool also have injury problems with skipper Phil Neal, who has a broken nose, and Gary Gillespie doubtful for their European Cup return leg with Panathinaikos in Greece.