

# Dibble steals show

**West Ham 0 Luton 1**

**ANDY DIBBLE** gave this game its only moments to cherish as West Ham finally found their missing touch in a frantic last five minutes.

The agile Luton 'keeper soared to his left to turn aside Mark Ward's stinging drive and 60 seconds later he flew to his right to deny substitute Greg Campbell, whose late arrival contributed so much to West Ham's revival.

West Ham's manager John Lyall admitted: "They were two world class saves. In fact, you won't see a better save all season than the one that stopped Ward's shot."

But he added ruefully: "We didn't really get going until those last few minutes and then we brought the best out of young Dibble."

Dibble's brilliance ensured that Luton kept up their unbeaten start to the season, but it was the bustling Mick Harford who rammed home the killer blow. He had scarcely endeared himself to the home fans as he unsettled West Ham's defence.

So, when he stepped up to bludgeon home the 49th minute penalty that divided the teams, it was the ultimate twist of fate.

Ray Stewart's cumbersome challenge on Brian Stein that merited the penalty decision as probably caused by shock as much as anything else. In a game as turbid as this Stein's silky control and lightening turns looked desperately out of place.

## **Awesome**

Harford, whose wrestling match with Hammers captain Alvin Martin was the main sideshow in the first half, despatched the penalty with awesome power to give 'keeper Phil Parkes his first real taste of action.

That West Ham should find some sort of touch after their laborious early efforts so late in the game was surprising.

Apart from the promise of Frank McAvennie, who had headers in both halves scraped just wide of the post, there was previous little to indicate they faced anything other than another season of struggle and torment.

Indeed, Luton created the two best chances of the second half, despite a lot of West Ham pressure. Gary Parker shot straight at Parkes and then Emeka Nwajiobi blasted wide.

With three regulars out of action, Luton were rightly delighted. Disappointed West Ham will be hoping that the impressive McAvennie will shake off a knee injury in time to face unbeaten Manchester United at Old Trafford tomorrow.