

Gunners on the rack

85/86 (FAC)

ARSENAL'S FA Cup survival twice hung in the balance in a passionate climax to this fourth round thriller.

One accurate shot from either Ricky Hill or Mark North would have crowned a magnificent revival by Luton.

But their first time drives squirted either side of the posts to give Arsenal the great escape and a midweek replay.

And if it's half as skilled, combative and exhilarating as this one, it's not to be missed.

All the goals came in a fascinating first half of blow and counter blow which had both teams in the lead.

Ricky Hill, was superb in midfield throughout but his most telling impact came in the ninth minute when he received a Mitchell Thomas lob

under heavy pressure from Steve Williams.

Williams, back in the Arsenal side for the first time in two months to shadow Brian Stein, was embarrassed by Hill's turn and electric pace as he shot Luton ahead.

Triumph

Arsenal's response was dramatic. Luton keeper Les Sealey had just saved brilliantly from a Charlie Nicholas flick when the ball was returned to the danger

area and Ian Allinson scored with a 20-yard cross shot off the post.

The second Arsenal goal was a triumph for Tony Woodcock, another Arsenal star back from exile. He screwed in a cross from an almost impossible angle and David Rocastle's neat header gave Arsenal the lead.

Misery

Mick Harford, booked for the third time against Arsenal this season, was

even more damaging near the break when he bundled a Thomas cross home to shoot Luton level.

The second half belonged largely to Luton who suffered a potentially serious blow with the late loss through injury of Stein.

Luton: Sealey, Johnston, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford, North, Preece. Sub: Parker.
Arsenal: Lukic, Anderson, Sansom, Williams, O'Leary, Keown, Allinson, Rocastle, Nicholas, Woodcock, Rix. Sub: Mariner.

