

LUTON SHAKER



Luton 2 Everton 2
By JOE MELLING

ADRIAN HEATH dramatically transformed the immediate future of his club and confirmed that Everton will be unable to keep him on the fringe for much longer.

His exile from the front-line attack following the acquisition of Gary Lineker in the summer merely emphasises the strength in depth of the League champions.

Everton's dream of an FA Cup and League championship double was on the brink of extinction until Heath was introduced in the 65th minute of this pulsating quarter-final.

Mick Harford and Mark Stein had put Luton two goals ahead when Heath changed places with full-back Neil Pointon.

As manager Howard Kendall was anxiously rearranging the tactical formation, Graeme Sharp provided an instant benefit with a goal.

And just 12 minutes later Heath provided the equaliser which takes the teams back to Goodison Park for a replay on Wednesday night.

There was little sign of danger as the Luton defender Steve Foster chested down an overhead flick from Lineker. But Heath was there in an instant to pinch the ball away and beat goalkeeper Les Sealey almost in the same movement.

And if Lineker had shown the composure which has earned him 32 goals this season, Everton would have won with five minutes remaining. But with only the goalkeeper to beat, the England international striker shot tamely and Sealey was able to save.

Offside

Harford had put Luton ahead in the 21st minute, collecting his 19th goal of the season after Ricky Hill's shot was only half-stopped by Neville Southall.

There was a suspicion of offside about Luton's second goal, which came after 63 minutes. But Stein was allowed to go on by Sheffield referee Keith Hackett. And when Stein's first shot was handled outside the

area by Southall, the referee intelligently allowed Luton the advantage and Stein was able to recover and score.

Luton, with memories of last season's FA Cup semi-final, when they led but then lost in extra time, might have suspected that Everton would launch a comeback. But they could not have expected the sheer power of the retaliation.

As their manager, David Pleat admitted: 'I we'd been two goals behind I don't think we would have got them back. We did our best to hang on without really knowing how to do it.

'There is nothing to be ashamed of. If we had lost the advantage to a Third Division team I would have been upset but these are indeed quality players.

'They showed in the second half that they are possibly the best team in the country.'

Kendall said: 'The players have

shown that we will not be beaten easily. It will take something a bit special to beat us.

'Normally you'd get one chance in the Cup and I thought when we were two down that this might be the one for us.

'We are delighted to be still in there. But it's not over yet. Don't forget Arsenal got a draw here in the last round. But I can't help being pleased because we played ever so well.

Quality

'I tend to take the character in my team for granted. What did surprise me was the outstanding quality of our football in the comeback. It was so good that in the end we had chances to win the tie.'

LUTON: Sealey; Johnson, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas; Nicholas, Hill, King (North, 68), Preece; Stein, Harford.

EVERTON: Southall; Stevens, Harper, Van Den Hauwe, Pointon (Heath, 65); Steven, Reid, Bracewell, Richardson; Lineker, Sharp.

Referee: K Hackett (Sheffield).



HEADS, IT'S MINE! Everton's Graeme Sharp and Luton's Ricky Hill tussle at Kenilworth Road

Picture: KEITH DOBNEY, who was highly commended in the Sports Council's Sports Photographers Awards