

THIS pulsating sixth round FA Cup-tie proved that you cannot write Everton off. Two down midway through the second half, they came back with a goal by Graeme Sharp, which was at first credited as an own goal by Donaghy, and an equaliser by substitute Adrian Heath to force a replay at Goodison Park on Wednesday.

Luton applied a lot of early pressure without making much impression on an Everton defence strengthened by the return of Gary Stevens at right-back but lacking the injured Ratcliffe from its heart. Harper continued to deputise for the missing Everton skipper and central defender.

Harford, forever pressing his claim for inclusion in the England squad, won the ball regularly in the air, but his headed passes would not fall right for Mark Stein, Harford's new partner in

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Luton 2, Everton 2

attack in the absence of Mark's injured brother, Brian, or any other Luton player.

However, Harford got his reward after 22 minutes of disappointingly scrappy play by both sides on a lovely Spring afternoon. A long throw by Nicholas was headed on by Foster and gave Hill the chance of a shot.

When the Luton midfield player let fly, Southall could only parry the ball. Harford was following up to put the rebound away and Everton found themselves trailing here, as they had in last season's semi-final between the clubs.

They would not have been behind for long had they taken either of the chances they created in the 34th and 35th minutes while demonstrating their class and starting to swarm all over Luton.

In the first instance, it was another long throw that caused the trouble. Pointon dropped this one behind Foster and at the feet of Lineker. The prolific Everton striker was only a couple of yards out from the near post, but Sealey smothered his first shot and Donaghy cleared the second off the line.

Everton's second chance also fell to Lineker. Richardson's centre from the left offered him a free header as he came unnoticed into the penalty area, but Lineker glanced the ball wide of the far post.

Everton continued to have the better of things at the start of the second-half, although it was Luton who created the first real chance after the interval. In the 51st minute, young Stein suddenly wriggled clear of his marker to shoot wide with a



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haste that betrayed his inexperience.

Stein, however, more than made up for that miss 12 minutes later, when he gave Luton a 2-0 lead at the end of a glorious move through the middle by Donaghy and Nicholas.

Nicholas's through pass sent Stein running clear as the Everton defence waited in vain for an offside decision, and the youngster recovered from having his first shot smothered by Southall to turn the loose ball into the empty net from the edge of the area.

As the game came to boiling point, Everton reduced Luton's lead two minutes later. The goal came when Sharp and Donaghy went up together for a Gary Stevens free-kick and the ball flew into the far corner of the Luton net off Donaghy's head.

The Everton comeback continued in the 77th minute when Heath, who had come on for Pointon after 64 minutes, took advantage of some loose play by Foster. Lineker's overhead kick was only chested down by Foster, and Heath nipped in to level the scores.

And so what had seemed a lost cause for Everton was resurrected by the fighting spirit which now typifies the play of the Merseysiders.

Luton: Sealey, Johnson, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, M. Stein, Harford, King, Preece.

Everton: Southall, Stevens, Pointon, Harper, Van Den Hauwe, Reid, Steven, Lineker, Sharp, Bracewell, Richardson.

Referee: K. Hackett (Sheffield).