

Lineker touch stumps Luton

Everton 1
Luton 0

By COLIN WOOD

GARY LINEKER put his foot down to speed Everton on the trail of another FA Cup semi-final last night.

The £800,000 striker raced between two Luton defenders to turn a hopeful clearance from a team-mate into a devastating strike to put the champions ahead after 16 minutes of this sixth round replay.

And Luton, 2—0 ahead in Saturday's first meeting before they were pulled back to level terms by a great Everton recovery, were almost 2—0 down before half-time.

Everton were awarded a penalty even though the offence, a trip by goalkeeper Les Sealey on Lineker, appeared to be outside the box. But Sealey then saved the kick from Trevor Steven.

Luton were stunned by Lineker's opener but the crowd packing Goodison Park were again thrilled by the pace and precision that brought the England man his 33rd goal in his first Everton season.

Chance

Luton were attempting to sustain their first attacking spell when a careless pass from Ricky Hill gave Everton possession just outside their own penalty area.

Trevor Stevens thumped the ball high down the middle and Lineker accelerated through a gap between Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy. Then, as Sealey came off his line, he flicked the ball over him into the net.

Luton tried desperately to get back on terms and young Mark Stein fired wide.

But it was Everton who had the best chance when referee Keith Hackett awarded that penalty just three minutes before half time.

Sealey's save from Steven lifted Luton and they launched a series of raids at the start of the second half.

Everton were in luck 13 minutes from the end when Luton substitute Ray Daniel struck a shot against a post after Preece had slipped the ball to him just inside the penalty area.