

Foster double wrecks Everton

by Derek Potter

Luton 2
Everton 1

89/86

STEVE FOSTER recked Everton's championship party yesterday.

The giant centre-half was the toast of Luton, not to mention Liverpool and Manchester United, as two late power headers hit Everton's swash buckling spurt for the title.

The head-banded Luton captain was left unmarked to beat Neville Southall twice inside four minutes to avenge that FA Cup defeat at Goodison Park.

An 82nd minute free kick by Ricky Hill set up the first blow for Everton and a David Preece corner gave Foster another chance in the 86th minute at the end of a creaky display by the Everton defence.

A match Everton seemed to have won suddenly slipped away and the players walked dejected to the dressing room to hear about the deeds of the Mersey rivals now snapping at their heels.

But they had looked in control a minute after the break with a lucky goal, Richardson's shot hitting Foster and giving goalkeeper Sealey no chance of regaining his balance in time to attempt a save.

It was the first bit of good fortune for Everton, who began without three key players, Reid, Ratcliffe and Stevens, and shortly before half-time lost Sheedy with a torn hamstring.

Everton were always seeking to hit Luton on the counter attack and a sweeping past by Richardson, sent Sheedy racing down the left wing. But he pulled up suddenly and fell to the plastic pitch clutching his thigh.

Town had their chances before Foster's late burst and Harford wasted the best two of the first half.