

Foster heads Hatters to revenge win

Luton 2, Everton 1

TWO simply executed headed goals from skipper Steve Foster in the last eight minutes earned the Hatters a fantastic last gasp victory over scrappy League leaders Everton.

The champions were leading through an untidy, deflected goal from Kevin Richardson before Foster's remarkable saving grace turned the match on its head.

A quiet start was enlivened by an unusual incident in the fourth minute. Harford stood 10 yards away from the ball as Everton keeper Southall crashed a free kick into the striker's midriff.

Everton were let off as the ball ran away from the stunned players but their manager Howard Kendall clearly showed his displeasure from the bench.

The Hatters created the early chances and Breacker, playing in midfield, came close to scoring his fourth goal for the club when he turned to fire in a snap-shot which Southall saved superbly.

The goalkeeper, however, could not hold a high corner from Preece and Harford and Breacker combined on the edge of the box to create an opening for Hill with Southall completely wrong-footed.

The ball was scrambled away and the visitors struck back immediately. Sharp drove in a shot which bounced back to him off Sealey's sprawling body and luckily Preece was handily placed to head away the striker's second attempt.

Then Harford wriggled himself skilfully away from the attentions of Mountfield, Richardson and Bracewell, to feed Preece on the left. His cross, played low, found Newell who was finally bundled off the ball by Harper.

Newell, a Liverpool fan, playing his first game for Luton against Everton, conceded a free-kick which Harper took. Bracewell and Lineker both tested Sealey who then lost control of the ball and central defender Mountfield squared his shot across the face of an empty goal.

The game was now buzzing and after Thomas had landed the ball into the Oak Road end with a speculative shot, the Hatters came very close to taking the lead in the 20th minute.

Preece took up the gauntlet once more down the left flank and just short of the by-line chipped over a superb cross for Harford whose header cannoned against the right hand post with Southall in no-man's land.

Newell broke free on the right and poked the ball in for Harford to smack a quick volley over the crossbar as Luton sensed the league leaders were reeling.

Breacker and Preece were having impressive games in Luton's tidy midfield and Everton approach work was as ragged as that which

Report by Andy Roberts

characterised their game against Chelsea six days ago. 85/86

In the 34th minute a neat move involving quick passes between Breacker and Newell released Preece once again and another teasing cross sent Harford into orbit.

He managed to charge between both Pointon and Van Den Hauwe to steer a header inches over the cross bar.

Everton took a shock lead two minutes into the second half with a goal scrappy enough to match their earlier performance.



STEVE FOSTER

Controlled football from Lineker created a chance but the low shot from Richardson took a wicked deflection off Foster and with Sealey committed to going one way, the ball went the other and rolled into the net.

The freak goal briefly shook Everton out of their lethargy and Lineker almost headed a second from substitute Marshall's cross.

In the 54th minute Southall rescued Everton again. First Breacker and then Johnson took the ball purposefully and the right back's low pass was poked towards the net by Newell. But Southall was quickly out of his goal to block the shot.

Two minutes later Preece collapsed after an off the ball incident by the Bobbers Stand touchline. And seconds later Foster's name went into the referee's notebook for man-handling Lineker.

Eight minutes from time Luton finally made the breakthrough. Preece floated a free kick into the box and Foster rose unmarked to head the ball home.

Five minutes later, the double act of Preece and Foster got in the act again. This time a corner from Preece was met by Foster's head to give Luton a sensational victory.

Attendance was 10,949.

Luton: Sealey, Johnson, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Newell, Harford, Breacker, Preece, Sub: King.

Everton: Southall, Harper, Pointon, Van den Hauwe, Mountfield, Richardson, Steven, Lineker, Sharp, Bracewell, Sheedy, Sub: Marshall.

Referee: Ray Lewis (Great Bookham).