

Hatters learn the naked truth

COVENTRY 1
LUTON 0

IT'S a pity Coventry couldn't have resurrected the city's heroine Lady Godiva to liven up the proceedings.

The naked truth is that Hatters were stuck in an end-of-season rut and contributed little to a mediocre game.

It's a matter of basics that if you don't shoot at the goal you are unlikely to score and Luton failed to mount even one serious threat to Ogrizovic's domain.

Hatters seemed bogged down on the treacle pitch.

It was too sticky through the middle to play their usual game and the back four had to



● Harford challenges Coventry keeper Ogrizovic with Steve Foster in support.

By
**Graham
Punter**

resort to pumping the ball forward to Harford and Newell.

But with a 4-4-2 formation the front two were often crowded out and Hatters ran out of targets.

Coventry were using the same pattern, but their outer midfield pair were players who enjoyed hugging the touchline and seemed able to move forward giving Kilcline and Co four front players to aim at.

The result was that Coventry enjoyed more possession, exerted more pressure and had all the worthwhile chances.

Obviously the Sky Blues were fired up by their relegation fight and lifted by the midweek

events that brought the larger-than-life figure of executive director George Curtis into the dressing room as temporary manager.

But even allowing for this fresh dose of motivation, Coventry would have been no match for a Luton side playing their normal game.

Hatters made one change from the side that lost against Liverpool the previous Wednesday, Tim Breacker replacing the injured Brian Stein.

Coventry made one change, Adams for Bowman, from the side thrashed 5-0 by Liverpool a week earlier.

That meant no place for out-of-favour ex-Hatter Wayne Turner, while Kirk Stephens watched from the stands, his recovery from injury still not complete.

Hatters came closest to scoring in the opening minutes.

A Ricky Hill header caused confusion in the home defence, but Ogrizovic reached the ball before Harford could finish.

Otherwise it was Coventry's day with Alan Brazil missing a clutch of chances.

First he had a shot well saved and then fired high when well placed.

Donaghy had to clear off the line and finally Brazil fluffed his best chance when he rounded Sealey but was forced wide and made a hash of the finish.

The killer blow came two minutes after the interval when Pickering took advantage of some indecisive challenges on the edge of the box to ram the ball past Sealey via the far post.

Mick Harford was booked, to complete a miserable day for the team and an even more disappointing day for the large Luton contingent who made the trip.

COVENTRY: Ogrizovic, Borrows, Kilcline, Peake, Downs, Bennett, McGrath, Pickering, Adams, Regis, Brazil. Sub: Rodger.

LUTON: Sealey, Johnson, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas, Hill, Breacker, Nicholas, Preece, Harford, Newell. Sub: M. Stein.