

MEXICO MISFIT'S



LUTON 3
(Harford 3)
WATFORD 2
(Jackett, pen; Sinnott)
PICTURES:
JON JONES

● Left, Mick Harford dances through the Hornets' defence for number one.

85/86
Right, the ● striker slots away his second.



REVENGE!

MICK Harford, the man spurned by England despite universal acclaim, produced his own Mexican hat-trick on the eve of the World Cup squad announcement.

There was irony too in the fact that Harford scored his 23rd, 24th and 25th goals of the season against a team managed by the man who introduced him to league football.

Watford boss Graham Taylor signed Harford as a 19-year-old on a free transfer when he was in charge at Lincoln.

Harford went on to become David Pleat's most expensive acquisition at £260,000 but has amply justified the investment.

The final game of the season at Kenilworth Road saw the return of the A team, the first choice side that produced title-winning form until stricken by injury.

Pleat took a chance by bringing back Brian Stein, dogged by knee injury, to partner Meka Nwajiobi, playing his first game since breaking a foot against Manchester City on November 30.

Return

The A team, which last played in Luton's 2-1 win at Vicarage Road in September, was composed of the return of

Robinson moved to number 12 to make way.

The traditional close encounter between these derby rivals looked to be a thing of the past as Luton galloped into a 2-0 lead with half-an-hour

Report by GRAHAM PUNTER

gone, and were well in control.

But Watford's second half revival, in which they tightened up their marking and denied Luton the space in which to play their one-touch football, brought a more customary look to the proceedings.

A delightful move involving Stein and Nwajiobi ended with Harford clipping the ball over Coton to give Hatters the lead after 10 minutes.

Nwajiobi wriggled free on the half-hour to cross low for Harford to side-foot number two.

Handled

Mitchell Thomas was judged to have handled McClelland's cross, enabling Jackett to score from the spot after 58 minutes to initiate the Hornets' revival.

Harford regained the advantage after 75 minutes, crashing home a left-foot volley from the edge of the box.

But three minutes later Sinnott gave Watford hope by diving to head home a cross from substitute Bardsley.

The result could have been different had Foster



3

● Harford lashes in the third, to complete his hat-trick against Watford.

not made the tackle of the season when West beat the offside trap.

But Luton had their chances too, and Harford was unlucky not to see a long range drive materialise into goal number four, Coton saving brilliantly.

Nwajiobi, twice,

Preece, Nicholas and Foster all went close while Barnes had a free kick well held and Sealey saved bravely when Bardsley found himself with just the keeper to beat.

The football was an entertaining climax to the season at Kenilworth Road but only a disappointing 11,810 crowd was there to enjoy

it in the sunshine.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacher, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas, Hill, Nicholas, Preece, Stein, Harford, Nwajiobi. Sub: Johnson.

WATFORD: Coton, Gibbs, Terry, McClelland, Sinnott, Talbot, Jackett, Sterling, Allen, West, Barnes. Sub: Bardsley.