

Liverpool toppled by Luton's late burst

86/87

By Colin Gibson

Luton 3, Liverpool 0

force of Harford, Newell and Stein who enjoyed some success.

It was Harford who was indirectly responsible for ending the deadlock of a game played at helter skelter pace and with little control.

A long ball forward by Donaghy, a Northern Ireland international, forced Gillespie, under pressure, to clamber over Harford on the edge of the Liverpool area. It was always a dangerous situation that Luton threatened to exploit.

On this occasion Sean produced the ideal free-kick. As the Liverpool wall was carefully lined up by goalkeeper Grobbelaar, Stein spotted a gap. He stepped up and curled the ball over the defenders and into the right hand top corner of the Liverpool net.

Liverpool had not even threatened, despite the determination of Walsh, their former Luton striker, to produce an

equaliser to Stein's splendid free kick.

And in the 52nd minute they were fortunate not to go further behind. Stein, who made one appearance for England three years ago, met a corner superbly and although his header beat the desperate dive of Grobbelaar, the alert Johnston headed the ball off the Liverpool line.

The situation was clearly becoming a worry for manager, Dalglish, and he decided to reinforce his attack by introducing Irvine.

Newell, who had scored a hat-trick in the 4-1 defeat of Liverpool at Kenilworth Road in the League game in October, fired in a superb right-foot volley which demanded a fine diving save from the agile Grobbelaar.

Luton put the issue beyond doubt when Harford scored a 78-minute penalty and Newell added a third goal three minutes later.

Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholson, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, B. Stein, Newell, Hartford, Grimes.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Gillespie, Veniscon, Lawrenson, Whelan, Hansen, Walsh, Johnston, Rush, Molby, Wark.

LUTON TOWN exploited Liverpool's hatred of artificial pitches to the full and ended Kenny Dalglish's side's reign as FA Cup-holders last night. Late goals by Harford and Newell settled the issue after Stein had opened the scoring.

Liverpool had not been threatened so early in this competition since 1978 when they were knocked out by Chelsea — inspired by winger Clive Walker.

But before last night's game on the Kenilworth Road surface they despise so much, Liverpool had been held for 210 minutes by brave Luton.

Last night on the artificial pitch which they cannot master Liverpool found themselves under even more pressure as Luton searched for a victory to savour.

Rush, bound for Italy in the summer, passed a late fitness test on an ankle injury sustained in the first replay on Monday, but found little to encourage him last night. Instead it was the Luton strike