

HATTERS HEROES KO CUP HOLDERS

86/87 (FAC)

HATTERS finished any arguments about artificial surfaces as they walked all over FA Cup holders Liverpool last night.

A three-goal roasting was no more than the Scousers deserved as a capacity 14,687 crowd saw Luton devastate them with breathtaking football. And Liverpool could have been beaten by even more, such was Hatters' domination.

Both teams stuck with the same players used in Monday's goalless draw. Slight injury doubts Ricky Hill, Brian Stein and Peter Nicholas were passed fit and goal machine Ian Rush had a late fitness test before putting on the number nine shirt for Liverpool.

Luton — and a group of noisy Liverpool fans — dominated the early exchanges. While the Scousers made their presence felt in the main stand Brian Stein went close twice.

Luton's early flurry died and Liverpool found their way back into the game. Former Hatter Paul Walsh fired a 20-yard drive straight at Les Sealey, and then Jan Molby repeated his colleague's mistake.

Luton fought to regain the upper hand, and regain it they did, as Brian Stein scored a glorious goal to break the deadlock after over four hours of trying.

Gary Gillespie needlessly fouled Mick Harford on the left side of the box, as they contested Steve Foster's free-kick. Up stepped Stein for his third pot at goal and he curled a

LUTON 3 LIVERPOOL 0 By PAUL SHERWOOD

lovely right-foot chip past Grobbelaar's right hand.

The Kenilworth Road fans went absolutely barmy with delight.

Only heroic defending by Alan Hansen and Craig Johnston kept Liverpool in the game, as Hatters launched an early second-half bombardment.

Liverpool were relying on break-away attacks and getting men forward quickly. But the Hatters' defence played with the confidence of a team who had not conceded a goal for five games, to stub out any threats.

Then in the 70th minute Steve Foster nearly increased Luton's lead as he cleverly received a free kick and thundered off the bar.

John Wark had gone off as Liverpool threw on Irvine, then Ablett replaced Walsh.

Inside two minutes Luton sewed up the match. Stein was felled in the box on 79 minutes and up stepped Mick

Harford to score his first goal in seven matches, from the penalty spot.

Two minutes later Foster sent in Mike Newell and the striker once rejected by Liverpool made them pay for their folly as he smashed a left-foot volley past Grobbelaar.

In the 84th minute a limping Ricky Hill was replaced by Darron McDonough.

LUTON — Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, B. Stein, Newell, Harford, Grimes. Subs: M. Stein, McDonough.

LIVERPOOL — Grobbelaar, Gillespie, Venison, Lawrenson, Whelan, Hansen, Walsh, Johnston, Rush, Molby, Wark. Subs: Irvine, Ablett.



● Pick that out, Bruce! Brian Stein beats Grobbelaar for number one last night.