



● MICK HARFORD... super show.

SKIPPER MICK SINKS ROBBBO!

STAND-IN Hatters skipper Mick Harford upstaged England captain Bryan Robson, leading Luton to a 2-1 victory over Manchester United on Saturday.

Inspired by being given the captaincy vacated by Steve Foster, the striker shot his first league goal in open play this season to set the Town on their way.

Brian Stein, with the help of man-of-the-match Ricky Hill intricately worked a magical second before half-time. And Robson could only scramble a consolation for United when it was too late for a recovery.

After sparking the Hatters revival following their Anfield defeat last week happy Harford posed for pictures with proud young fans. "It was a nice experience being captain. I enjoyed it, especially in the first-half, I thought we played very well," he said.

"I talk quite a lot in a match anyway, so it didn't make much difference to my game."

Harford said United keeper Gary Bailey was at fault in not coming for the cross that led to his opening goal. He added that Hatters were disappointed no foul was given when Robson challenged Les Sealey, before scoring.

The striker led out a Luton team in which Foster's centre-back place went to Stacey North.

North, a Luton-born 22-year-old who featured in two defeats last time Foster was out, got the vote ahead of Darron McDonough.

After turning in a sound performance against difficult opposition in Norman Whiteside, North admitted that he put himself on the transfer list recently, but was now intent on pressing claims for a regular first team place.

It was the defence which came under scrutiny first, as United started brightly and threatened to expose the reorganised Hatters' line-up.

Tim Breacker was forced into a saving tackle in the opening move and moments later United's Gordon Strachan burst through only to have his cross blocked.

But Harford, who looked eager in his new role as skipper, stunned the visitors in Luton's first attack.

His flick found Stein, who held up play in the

corner of the penalty box, before cutting a pass back to Nicholas.

The midfielder's delightful curling cross found Harford, who had raced to the far post, to slot a volley past the hesitant Bailey.

Town then embarked upon a purple patch of neat football, with a willingness to shoot from any distance and every angle.

Breacker's run and cross brought smart snapshot out of Stein. Nicholas thumped one, Grimes sent a free-kick special just over and Hill tried his luck from 30 yards.

United, who only sparked into life with a dangerous cross from tiny Terry Gibson, showed the strain when Paul McGrath — already spoken to along with Robson by no-nonsense referee Ken

LUTON 2 MAN UTD 1 By DOMINIC BIGGS



● CRACKER... Hotshot Brian Stein fires one in.

Baker — was booked for dissent.

Kevin Moran went off to recover from double vision, following a clash, but Hatters continued to pile on the agony after he returned.

Hill headed across goal from Johnson's cross in the 38th minute.

Two minutes later, with uncanny co-ordination and magnetic ball control, Hill and Stein combined to pick a way out of a massed centre circle.

Hill was muscled out of his charge, but Stein, in full cry alongside, took it up, and jinked through to score in the corner.

Before the interval Breacker's rocket shot might have made it three, if anyone had followed up Bailey's fine save.

Straight after the restart Hill's header was tipped onto the bar, from North's huge throw. And minutes later Bailey pulled off a stunning treble save to foil a combination of Stein and Harford.

Davenport replaced Colin Gibson for United, but there was still no luck for Luton sub Mark Stein. For the unlucky 13th time since being dropped in favour of Harford, the youngster kicked his heels on the bench.

Three minutes from time, Bryan Robson went into a crunching tackle with Sealey inside the six-yard box and recovered first to prod in the loose ball.

LUTON — Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, North, Donaghy, Hill, B. Stein, Newell, Harford, Grimes. Sub: M. Stein.
MAN UTD — Bailey, Siveback, C. Gibson, Duxbury, McGrath, Moran, Robson, Strachan, Whiteside, T. Gibson, O'Brien. Sub: Davenport.