

TOWN BLOW TO ROBINS' HOPES

86/87
HATTERS never had to raise more than a canter to beat a hopelessly out-of-sorts Charlton at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

A weakened side playing with an obvious, although understandable, lack of urgency, the Town delivered a cruel blow to their relegation-haunted opponents when Mick Harford pounced three minutes from time.

Only the Luton players' pride prevented them becoming bystanders in a game with little bearing on their own season, but which meant everything to their hosts.

Town started with two 18-year-olds in their side full-back Richard Harvey, filling in again for the injured Ashley Grimes, was joined by debut boy Gary Cobb given his first team baptism after Brian Stein picked up an ankle injury midweek.

The youngster settled after an uncertain start and was on hand to set up the late winner.

With Charlton committed to attack in search of three vital points, they were caught on the break when Cobb found himself in space on the right wing.

Athletic were outnumbered in defence and although Cobb's angled pass low into the box was missed by Preece, Harford arrived with time to choose his spot.

Charlton didn't play particularly well, but could have won by a

CHARLTON 0 LUTON 1 By DOMINIC BIGGS

mile. Colin Walsh rattled Les Sealey's bar from a first-half set-piece, and the Robins had a strong penalty appeal turned down, when Sealey body-checked Robert Lee 20 minutes from time.

The unfortunate Lee, a centre-forward with three goals all season, had a desperate time, but none of his team mates fared much better, and most of Sealey's duties were no more than routine.

Charlton normally, however, would have come up against a less determined and effective pair of centre backs than Mal Donaghy and Stacey North.

And Tim Breacker always looked a danger until he was stretchered off just before half-time, with damaged knee ligaments. McDonough substituted admirably.

CHARLTON — Bolder, Humphrey, Reid, Peake, Shirliffe, Miller, Milne, Stewart, Lee, Walsh, Crooks. Sub: Leaburn.

LUTON — Sealey, Breacker, Harvey, Nicholas, North, Donaghy, Hill, Cobb, Newell, Harford, Preece. Sub: McDonough.