

RECALLED MEKA CAN'T STOP ROT

87/88

NIGERIAN INTERNATIONAL EMEKA NWAJIOBI ended his year-long exile from Hatters' starting line-up at Chelsea on Saturday.

Although showing some promising touches after such a long absence, Nwajobi was powerless to prevent Luton finishing on the wrong end of a 3-0 scoreline.

Afterwards the African — who appeared as a sub against Coventry this season and retained his place on Monday — spoke of his time out in the cold.

But despite rumours of a rift between himself and former manager John Moore — Nwajobi was given the first six games of Moore's brief reign but ignored after recovering from injury — the winger refused to be critical of his ex-boss.

"I think I know the reason for what happened, but I prefer not to say anything about that," was his comment.

He added: "It was disheartening really. Your morale drops and you can begin to wonder what you are playing for."

"Once you have tasted First Division football it can be difficult to motivate yourself to play in the Reserves."

Nwajobi, one of several changes in the Hatters side at Stamford Bridge, found out last Friday he would be playing, when Danny Wilson was injured and Brian Stein failed to regain fitness.

Robert Wilson replaced namesake Danny in midfield, Mal Donaghy returned from suspension to give an excellent defensive display and promising young winger Kingsley Black wore the number 12 shirt.

It was Nwajobi who provided the game's first shot on target seven minutes before half-time.

CHELSEA 3 LUTON 0 By Dominic Biggs

And in another of the three scoring chances which fell to him, Nwajobi had a snapshot well blocked by Wicks — starting the move which led to Chelsea's 63rd minute opener.

Romp

Tim Breacker needlessly lost possession in his own goalmouth to Dorigo, who rolled an angled pass back for former postman John Coady to shoot straight and low inside the unsighted Sealey's far post.

That started a 16 minute goal romp which continued after 70 minutes, when Durie found space in the box and chipped the ball over Sealey.

It found Nevin, who

fired in from an acute angle off Sealey's knees, while the goalkeeper appealed in vain for offside.

And Dixon capitalised further on Luton's commitment to attack. Running through in the 79th minute and fending off the attentions of Ashley Grimes, he thundered a shot into the top corner, off the underside of the bar, from the edge of the 18-yard box.

Tough

The three goal margin was certainly tough on Hatters, who had defended well in the first 60 minutes and should have taken the lead when Newell sprinted free in the 34th minute and squared the ball to Cobb, who volleyed over

the beckoning goal mouth.

Nwajobi, who said he was pleased only "up to a point" with his own performance, pointed out: "We were unlucky because we contained them for so long that they didn't look as though they were going to score."

But he added: "Our luck will change. We've got to think positively." Chelsea: Niedzwiecki, Clarke, Dorigo, Wicks, McLaughlin, Wood, Nevin, C. Wilson, Dixon, Durie, Coady. Subs: K. Wilson, McNaught.

Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, Donaghy, Foster, R. Wilson, Hill, Cob, Newell, Nwajobi, Preece. Subs: Black, North.



● I'm back. Nwajobi in action at Chelsea.