

Snatch squad does it again

87/88 (FLC)

IPSWICH 0 LUTON 1

FOR THE second time in four days Luton Town pulled off an expert smash and grab job to go into today's fifth round draw for the Littlewoods Cup.

Brian Stein grabbed an early goal and Les Sealey performed wonders as the Town held out for the next 86 minutes to end the unbeaten home record of Second Division Ipswich.

"We had our backs to the wall for long spells," admitted manager Ray Harford.

He was asked if he thought the Town had been lucky to win a game which Ipswich had dominated in attacking terms. "Two clean sheets against teams that come at you is not luck," he replied. "It's good

MANAGER Ray Harford is rather hoping that in today's quarter-final draw the Town come out against a team playing in blue.

That will match the colour worn by all the three opposing sides in the current Littlewoods Cup run — Wigan, Coventry and Ipswich.

play." The game was a typical rousing cup-tie watched by Portman Road's biggest crowd of the season, and the manager's satisfaction with the result was all the more evident

when he looked at his injury list.

Danny Wilson, a driving force in midfield, limped out of the action two minutes after the interval with a hamstring injury and thus became the seventh first team regular to be sidelined.

Ashley Grimes was out with an ankle injury received in the bruising encounter at Hillsborough on Saturday and teenage fullback Richard Harvey stepped in for his first game of the season.

Romeo Zondervan caused him problems in the first half with his pace and trickery, but the young defender recovered to become part of a defence which must have looked like giants to Ipswich attackers the longer the game went on.

For all their pressure and the passion engendered by a raucous crowd Ipswich were allowed few clear cut chances.

And when they did threaten Sealey was in inspired form — three times Ipswich fans were on their feet to acclaim equalisers, but on each occasion the goalkeeper silenced their roars. He dived to his right to save a pile-driver by Mark Brennan.

And in the second half when it was almost all one-way traffic towards his goal he acrobatically tipped over a header by Mich D'Avray.

You would never have guessed that the goalkeeper had been under treatment before kick-off for a shoulder injury received at Hillsborough.

Ipswich took off D'Avray and sent on John Deehan, and a powerful header from him suffered the same fate when it came up against Sealey's excellence. The whole team had to be workmanlike and defiant, and they were.

Steve Foster stood up to the physical assault from D'Avray and Mal Donaghy matched leading scorer David Lowe for pace. Rob Johnson, pressed in-

to service in midfield, limped out of the game in the latter stages and teenager David Oldfield will have happy memories of his first appearance at senior level when he went on as sub because it was a victory the travelling Luton fans will remember for a long time.

The Town showed the difference in class where it mattered most with Brian Stein's fourth minute strike producing a goal of real quality.

Brother Mark threaded a pass through the middle, Brian stepped around two defenders, drew the goalkeeper, and scored with a clinical finish.

"It was terrific," said happy Ray Harford whose team need fear no one in the cup on the evidence so far.

There was a scare when Harvey and Lowe tangled in the penalty area and it looked as though a penalty might be given. "It was not intentional," said the Town boss, and fortunately referee Trelford Mills gave an indirect free kick inexplicably outside the area.

Kingsley Black came on as substitute for Wilson and played well in a midfield that was forced to be defensive and defiant.

DETAILS

TOWN: Sealey; Breacker, Foster, Donaghy, Harvey; Wilson (Black 47), McDonough, Johnson (Oldfield 85); Brian Stein, Mark Stein, Nwajobi.

IPSWICH: Hallworth; Stockwell, Cranston, Yallop, Harbey; Rimmer, Dozzell, Brennan; Zondervan, D'Avray (Deehan 73), Lowe.

THE GOAL: Brian Stein, fourth minute, run and clinical shot from brother Mark's pass.

OTHER STRIKES: Town three saved and five wide. Ipswich ten saved and nine wide. Corners: 6-5 to Ipswich.

ATTENDANCE: 15,643, Portman Road's highest of the season so far.

REFEREE: Telford Mills, Barnsley — made some strange decisions but the Town won't complain.

BOOKED: Danny Wilson, Darron McDonough and Neill Rimmer of Ipswich, all for fouls.

ENTERTAINMENT: A rip-roaring cup-tie full of Ipswich fire and brilliant Town defending.