

Player power keeps Luton right on track

By Michael Dennis

87/88

(FAC)

Luton ... 2, Southampton ... 1

A DIFFERENT type of "player power" is propelling Luton towards Wembley in three competitions.

As they maintain their progress in the FA, Littlewoods and Simod cups, their manager Ray Harford happily admits that his senior players are helping him to cope.

"We are in the last four of the Littlewoods Cup, and it will be my first semi-final, but many of the players have experienced it all before and know what to expect," he said.

"When I was Fulham manager I was so tense, but now I am learning to relax. The players feel they can win every game."

Few shared that view after 71 minutes on Saturday. That was when Southampton broke out to plunder a goal through Clarke's shot off a post.

With seven minutes remaining Southampton were slow to organise themselves at a corner, and Allinson's shot went in off Statham's knee. Less than 60 seconds later another deflection enabled Mark Stein's pass to reach his brother, Brian, who scored the winner.

Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson (Grimes 75), McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B Stein, Harford, M Stein, Allinson.

Southampton: Burridge, Forrest, Statham, Baker, Moore, Blake, Hobson, Cockerill, Clarke, Townsend, Wallace.