



WE HAVE LIFT-OFF . . . Mick Harford and Mark Stein celebrate as Warren Neill's own goal hands Luton an FA Cup sixth round spot

Bald Eagle in crash landing

Luton 1, QPR 0

JIM SMITH'S incredible FA Cup hoodoo struck again last night when QPR were cruelly dumped out of the competition by an own goal.

Full-back Warren Neill was the guilty man as his howler kept Luton on course for an incredible four Wembley appearances this season.

Smith, known as the Bald Eagle, has never gone beyond the fifth round of the FA Cup in 15 years as a manager.

And his chances of reaching the elusive last eight were sabotaged by Rangers' hero at Loftus Road at the weekend.

Neill's moment of madness came after an hour when he blasted a shot past his own keeper David Seaman.

Misery

A speculative long ball was punted into the box by Steve Foster. Mick Harford and Brian Stein also had touches before Neill struck the ball into his own net.

Warren Neill, nicknamed 'Wally' by his teammates, said: "This is the worst moment of my career.

"It's a real sickener. I was going to kick the ball with my right foot, but, it doesn't skid like it does on our pitch, so I tried to hook it away with my left and it ended up in my own net."

Rangers boss Smith said: "Warren is very down at the moment, but I don't blame him. The ball ricocheted off his left shin and into the top corner."

It was a tragic twist of fortune for Neill, who scored Rangers' goal in Saturday's 1-1 draw.

And to complete his

**By JOHN
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night of misery, Neill was substituted after 77 minutes.

Ray Harford's men now meet Portsmouth in the quarter-final as they continue their remarkable four-pronged assault on Wembley's twin towers.

Luton are now in the quarter-finals of both the FA and Simod Cups — and they have already qualified for the Mercantile Credit Centenary Challenge in April.

Earlier the brilliant David Seaman had done his best to deny Luton.

Rangers' England No. 3 keeper had not expected to play in the match after being out for two months with a severely dislocated thumb.

Rocket

But Smith sprung an 11th-hour surprise by recalling Seaman and dropping reserve keeper Nicky Johns.

Seaman produced a string of fine saves — most notably from a spectacular 20-yard rocket by Mark Stein midway through the first half.

Luton were even more dominant in the second half and after Neill's error Brian Stein almost added a second when he struck the post.