

It's Jekyll and Hyde Hatters!

JEKYLL and Hyde Hatters slumped to their worst defeat of the season on a Coventry pitch almost devoid of grass.

Cup matches are a breeze for the Kenilworth Road side already looking forward to three Wembley appearances.

But Tuesday's 4-0 thrashing at the hands of FA Cup holders Coventry means Luton have lost three league games on the trot and although tenth in Division One, they are not clear of relegation.

The Sky Blues leapt above Hatters in the league with only their fourth home win of the season.

Hatters' boss Ray Harford said: "We need another nine points to be safe."

**COVENTRY 4
LUTON 0**
By MICHAEL
WEINSTEIN

On a pitch more suited to mud wrestling, both teams managed some skilful play and could have scored a goal apiece inside the first five minutes.

First Mark Stein dummied and took the return from Mick Harford round the



● RAY HARFORD.

Coventry defence — but his low shot was well saved by Steve Ogrizovic.

Then Mal Donaghy had to clear off his line from the lively David Speedie.

After 24 minutes, Ian Allinson picked up Ashley Grimes' pass and

Harford: 'We need another nine points for safety'

knocked the ball towards the by-line.

The ball stuck in the mud and gave the number 11 a chance to feed Mick Harford, who side-footed wide as he fell backwards.

But then it all went dreadfully wrong for

Hatters.

Speedy David Smith found Cyrille Regis in the box and the muscular striker nodded down for Steve Sedgley to power home a 36th-minute volley.

Just three minutes later Grimes was booked for body-checking Speedie. From the free-kick Regis found Smith in acres of space and the winger crossed behind the Hatters' defence for Gary Bannister to wallop his first goal since joining the club for £300,000.

Any chance of a second-half comeback was killed off in the 60th minute when Harford up-ended midfielder Dean Emerson, who was playing just hours after his mother's funeral.

Les Sealey got a hand



● LES SEALEY . . . brave attempt.

to Brian Kilcline's ferocious penalty but could not prevent it going in.

Five minutes later, Regis completed the scoring with the best goal of the night when he turned Mal Donaghy inside-out and bore down on goal before shooting low past Sealey.

Boss Harford gave subs Kingsley Black and Gary Cobb a run out — and Black caused the home side problems — but it was all too late.

After the game, Harford said: "We didn't work as hard as we had been. We looked tired and in the end it was a 4-0 thrashing.

"It might be a blessing in disguise, to get us back down to earth" he added.

THE LINE-UP

COVENTRY: Ogrizovic, Phillips, Downs, Sedgley, Kilcline (Rodger), Peake, Emerson, Bannister, Regis, Speedie, Smith. Other sub: Bennett.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Johnson (Cobb, 72 mins), Harford, Stein, Allinson (Black, 69 mins).

● Attendance: 13,273.