

IT'S ALL YOURS LUTON



By BRIAN McCLAIR

● THE likely lads of Luton will outgun Arsenal to lift the Littlewoods Cup.

That's the prediction of Manchester United goal-ace Brian McClair, who says the Kenilworth Road side have more influential players than last year's winners.

● "Mick Harford and Brian Stein will be the key men for Luton — the men to unlock the Arsenal defence," declared the striker.

"I know the London side have had the better results this season than Luton, but I don't think that will matter in a one-off at Wembley.

● "The pitch will also suit Luton. They have perfected a quick one-two style on their astro-turf and will settle quickly at Wembley.

Interview by ANDY McINNES

FACT FILE

ARSENAL VERDICT 90



LUTON VERDICT 92



TONY ADAMS ... great tackler



DAVID ROCASTLE ... takes stick

JOHN LUKIC..... 8

A VERY sound goalkeeper who has done well recently and seems to be maturing to his best. He is particularly impressive with those demanding cross ball situations and is top-notch when it comes to reaction saves.

NIGEL WINTERBURN..... 8

ONE of the few left-footed players who lines up at right back! He crosses a smashing ball with the former peg and is quick to recover when forwards do get past him, which makes him very difficult.

GUS CAESAR..... 7

A YOUNG and inexperienced player—but I rate him just above average. One of his biggest assets is that he does slot well into the smooth-running Arsenal set-up and is a competent man in the side.

TONY ADAMS..... 9

HE had a really good first season but hasn't been as effective this time round. A great player, though, who's strong points are his tackling and heading. I would have him in my side any day.

KENNY SANSON..... 8

AN in and out season for him probably because of his shaky form. He is always dangerous when he piles forward as he so often does, but he struggles to get back at the same pace.

DAVID ROCASTLE..... 9

I HAVE always been really impressed by him. He takes a lot of stick from the Arsenal crowd for some reason I don't understand, but he is an honest professional whose finishing pass is always exceptional.

PAUL DAVIS..... 8

HE can be very influential. He puts in a very good work rate and is comfortable looking on the ball. He also has the eye for delivering telling passes that can split defences and making himself available.

MICHAEL THOMAS..... 8

WHEN it comes to covering ground, Michael is up and down like a fiddler's elbow. He's very quick and strong and I particularly like the way he gets forward to score goals and go at defences.

KEVIN RICHARDSON... 10

A GREAT buy and a vastly under-rated player. He may not be the most skilful player you might come across, but he is a terrific passer of the ball and always supports his attackers.

ALAN SMITH..... 8

TREMENDOUS close control and plenty of stamina. Smith is a good team player who has a nice touch and is always trying to bring those around him into the game. He's excellent in the air, too.

PERRY GROVES..... 7

HE has scored a few spectacular goals this season and is always looking for an opening. A sharp and nippy player, it is a great shame that he lets himself down by making silly mistakes at times.



W E M B L E Y



STEVE FOSTER ... very influential



ROB JOHNSON ... causes havoc

ANDY DIBBLE..... 7

I AM not yet convinced about him and he could be Luton's weak point. Seems to have got better recently, but this Final is bound to see him come under pressure and will be a real tester for him.

TIM BREACKER..... 8

HE is great going forward and very efficient at recovering after sapping runs. A reasonable tackler and pacy for a full back, he likes to send over crosses that hang in the air for his forwards.

STEVE FOSTER..... 9

NOT a quality player in pure football terms, but he's very influential for the team — a real stalwart for Luton. Commanding in the air, he also has excellent timing and is very hard to get past.

MAL DONAGHY..... 9

A SWEEPER who does a brilliant job for Luton. Everything Foster misses — or anybody else for that matter — he gets. His cover is something special, which causes strikers like myself all sorts of problems.

ROB JOHNSON..... 8

NEVER gives in and always puts pressure on his opponents. Particularly good at crossing the ball into the heart of the box, where his forwards are on hand to cash in on the havoc he creates.

DANNY WILSON..... 9

MARVELLOUS attitude and approach to the game. He always wants the ball, to be in the thick of the action and to get things going. He has plenty of skills to match his work rate.

RICKY HILL..... 9

THE most influential player in Luton's line-up when he plays. A possible Cup winner for them even if he is not fully fit. Vast experience and Wembley will suit him down to the ground.

KINGSLEY BLACK..... 8

THIS boy has a superb left foot and could test Nigel Winterburn by getting past him. But the big question mark hanging over him is just how well, as a 19-year-old, he will react to the big occasion.

BRIAN STEIN..... 9

ONE of Luton's best. He has great touch and control and his blistering pace will catch out Arsenal. Add to that the fact he's also a very good header of the ball, and you have an excellent player.

MICK HARFORD..... 9

THE sort of attacker who gives defences nightmares for the full 90 minutes. Powerful and aggressive he lays the ball off superbly and is a real dangerman. Arsenal are going to have to watch him or suffer.

DARRON McDONOUGH..... 7

KEEN and sometimes effective — although not always. He supports the front runners well, which is one of his major plusses, and makes himself available to take the load when the going gets tough.

