

HANDY ANDY IS CUP HERO



● King Kingsley: Teenage winger Black leaves Nigel Winterburn in his wake. Pictures: DAVE POOLE.

Black in demand!

TEENAGER Kingsley Black's breath-taking performance on Sunday left him with a welcome dilemma.

Black's devastating form impressed Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham who immediately rewarded him with a place in the squad to play France in Belfast yesterday.

England manager Bobby Robson then stepped in to ask Black to reconsider his acceptance of a Northern Ireland place.

Black qualifies to play for both countries because although he has an Irish father he was born in Luton.

The 19-year-old finally decided his

future lay with Ireland, provoking a furious response from Robson.

To many it was a surprise that Luton boss Ray Harford included Black, who had only played a handful of first team games this season, in his Wembley team.

However Harford insisted that there was never any doubt that the youngster would be in the team.

"There was never a problem over Black. I was always going to play him," said Harford.

Harford said his choice of side which also included Ricky Hill and David Preece — both short of senior match experience following injury — was all but decided for him with a late injury to

Darron McDonough.

McDonough twisted a knee in training the previous day and hobbled to the Luton bench at Wembley on crutches.

Brotherly love saves the day

BRIAN Stein turned peacemaker after his younger brother Mark walked out of the Luton headquarters, angry at his exclusion from the team.

Brian had words with 22-year-old Mark and convinced him he was being silly.

"He is young and head-strong," said Brian, who said the club's other senior players had also spoken to the youngster.

Ray Harford said Mark took the news that he was not in the 11 to start the game "very badly".

"But he is back in the fold now. He came on as substitute and got a cup winners' medal," said the boss.

Brian Stein did not realise how close to the end of full time it was when he clinched the winner in the dying seconds — the Wembley clock broke down towards the end of the first half.

"After the goal I turned and said to Ricky (Hill) 'How long have we got left' and then the referee blew."

Brian praised the thousands of Hatters supporters who cheered the team onto victory. He said they were great as were the Arsenal crowd even though their side lost.

Ray's hope for Town

HATTERS' Wembley sensation could just be the start of something big for the club claims manager Ray Harford.

"the win puts us in contention for Europe and new players will want to come to Luton because we have won something. It means everything to Luton Town FC."

But Harford confessed he could not even smile or laugh for the cameras after Hatters clinched their first major trophy.

The boss, who admitted after the Simod Cup defeat a month ago that it was the worst moment of his career, said he found it difficult to handle the emotions of winning a cup at last.

"After the match I could not even smile," he revealed.

ARSENAL 2, LUTON 3

(F.L.C.)

STAND-IN keeper Andy Dibble enjoyed a fairytale return to first-team football as underdogs Luton snatched the Littlewoods Cup from the grasp of holders Arsenal at Wembley on Sunday.

With the Hatters reeling after Martin Hayes and Alan Smith had scored twice in the space of four minutes to lead 2-1, Welshman Dibble plunged low to his left to turn Winterburn's spot-kick round the post and then watched as Danny Wilson and Brian Stein stole a famous victory.

It was Stein who put Luton ahead after just 14 minutes when he coolly beat John Lukic low to his left.

Four minutes later the Gunners were ahead, Alan Smith blasting past Dibble.

With Luton reeling Dibble produced a magnificent save to tip Smith's header onto the bar with Hayes putting the rebound against the post.

From the corner Tony Adams headed towards goal and the young Welsh keeper had to be at his best to tip over Hayes' close-range flick on.

Two minutes later Smith beat the offside trap only to be denied by Dibble yet again but the ball fell to David Rocastle whose mazy run was ended in the box by a Donaghy tackle which referee Joe Worrall harshly adjudged a penalty.

Justice was done however when Dibble brilliantly saved Winterburn's 80th minute kick.

Luton's equaliser came three minutes later after a mistake by young Arsenal defender Gus Caesar.

The inexperienced centre-half tripped in the penalty area and although Lukic bravely blocked Black's shot Brian Stein's

Reports by Mark Lawrence and Paul Brookman at Wembley

follow-up was nodded in by Wilson.

In the dying seconds substitute Ashley Grimes, a 78th minute replacement for David Preece, outpaced Kevin Richardson on the right flank and his cross was expertly steered in by Stein to seal an amazing comeback.

D-DAY LOOMS FOR DIBBLE

ANDY Dibble is still not sure whether his future lies with Luton despite being voted man of the match on Sunday.

Dibble only gained a first team place when top choice keeper Les Sealey was injured earlier this month, and only knew he was playing on Sunday lunchtime when Sealey failed a fitness test.

Despite a sparkling display, in which he rated his penalty save as the most important he has ever made, Dibble is not sure that he will be on Luton's books next season.

"My contract expires in the summer and although they have told me verbally they want me to stay I have had nothing in writing."

He said he wants first team football and he is not convinced he will get that with Luton.

"I still don't consider myself as the number one keeper," said the modest 22-year-old, who said he intended to see his family rather than join the Hatters' celebrations on Sunday evening.



● Head start: Mick Harford beats Tony Adams and Gus Caesar in the air.