

Dave wrecks Reds' record bid



● David Oldfield . . . spoiled Liverpool's party.

LIVERPOOL'S HOPES of setting a new record championship points total were foiled by an enterprising display from Hatters in Anfield's seasonal finale.

A 1-1 draw meant that Liverpool had gone through the season unbeaten before their own fans, but the solitary point was not enough for the champions to overhaul the 90 points mark set by neighbours Everton in 1984-85.

Worse than the disappointment of missing out on the record, however, was the double injury blow suffered by the FA Cup finalists in the 72nd minute, as Gary Gillespie collided with his fellow central defender Nigel Spackman.

Both left the field with head and facial injuries

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**LIVERPOOL 1
LUTON 1
Att. 30,374**

and neither returned, leaving Liverpool to play out the final 18 minutes with just 10 men as player/manager Kenny Dalglish had earlier put himself on for Craig Johnston.



● Rob Johnson . . . set up goal.

Luton, hanging on by their fingertips for much of the opening half, had to come from behind.

And then, having stuck a goal in at the famous Kop end, they chanced their arm after the break with the result that Liverpool were

often left chasing shadows as Luton knocked the ball about in great style.

Ashley Grimes, one of Luton's biggest successes, almost snatched a leading goal after just eight minutes with a free kick that flew just over the angle.

And it was totally out of the blue when Liverpool struck to go ahead in the 17th minute, Craig Johnston back heading a Ray Houghton corner for John Aldridge to score with a marvellous overhead kick — his 29th goal of the season.

Spurred on by that success, Liverpool laid

siege to Andy Dibble's goal.

But on the half-hour, totally against the run of play, Luton broke superbly to equalise.

A good ball out of defence by Rob Johnson, who beat England's Steve McMahon for possession, set 19-year-old David Oldfield off on a run.

He went straight for the gap between Spackman and Gillespie, gradually outpaced both and as Bruce Grobbelaar advanced he drilled an accurate low shot just inside an upright.

It was only Oldfield's second league goal of his career and in the end it

proved enough to earn Luton the half share that had looked unlikely.

Liverpool came again strongly just before the interval with Dibble coming into his own. He made a good save when John Barnes floated a free kick over the wall and did even better with a low, diving save as Barnes wriggled through.

It was Barnes who posed the biggest threat to Luton and there was a wasteful finish by McMahon, who fired wide after a typical piece of Barnes magic had set up the chance.

In the 83rd minute Luton, ever dangerous on the break, were

desperately close to smashing Liverpool's Anfield invincibility.

Steve Nicol, skipper for the night in the absence of Alan Hansen, slipped and lost possession midway in his own half.

Oldfield snapped up a loose ball and headed straight for the advancing Grobbelaar. It seemed odds on a goal but with Gary Ablett snapping at his heels there was a brief moment of hesitation and Grobbelaar was down on the ball in a flash to avert the threat.

LIVERPOOL: Grobbelaar; Gillespie, Ablett, Nicol, Spackman (MacDonald 72 mins), Whelan, Johnston (Dalglish 63 mins), Aldridge, Houghton, Barnes, McMahon.

LUTON: Dibble; Breacker, Johnson (James 89 mins), Grimes, Foster, M. Johnson, Wilson, Alinson (Cobb 70 mins), Oldfield, Preece, Black.