



● IT'S THERE... Kingsley Black's first goal for Hatters hits the back of the net

Black's beauty

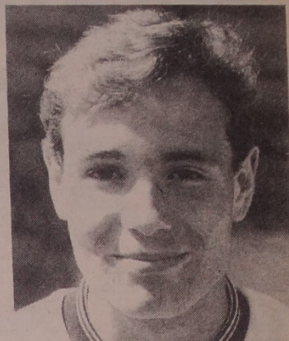
STARLET KINGSLEY Black will never forget the 57th minute of Hatters 1988 home curtain raiser.

The youngster netted his first senior goal for Luton — although it wasn't quite enough to secure three points for Luton.

By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

He said: "I don't get many with my head and I'm not what you would call a prolific scorer but I've been trying to get in a few more shots.

"I've had a few but they just seem to go over the bar or wide — so it was nice to get one on target."



Kingsley Black... first goal

Black buried a couple of goals in Hatters' pre-season warm-up, against Vastervik and Watford, and added after Saturday's game: "It was a great feeling as I watched the ball and waited for it to go into the corner.

"There was no one jumping against me and I just managed to steer it into the corner.

"But it would have been nice to have got the winner."

Youths serve up a treat

THE handful of fans who arrived early to Hatters' first home game of the season were treated to a soccer spectacular.

For Luton's youngsters scored their 12th goal in two games and hammered their Division Two counterparts from Spurs 6-2.

Striker Kurt Nogan grabbed a hat-trick to go with the four he netted against Reading in Hatters 6-2 win on Wednesday.

Coach John Faulkner said: "We're really passing the ball around well this year, playing with confidence and with a lot of quality and we're getting a bit of success as well, which adds to their confidence."

LONG SHOTS PIN 'EM DOWN AGAIN

LUTON 2 WIMBLEDON 2

HATTERS CHOPPED and changed in the face of a second successive long-ball onslaught — and it almost paid off.

Seven days earlier they had been drawn away from their familiar passing game into battle at Hillsborough, and finished vanquished.

Boss Ray Harford brought back ball players David Preece and Ashley Grimes to tackle the Wimbledon battering ram.

And for 25 minutes after the break, it worked, as Hatters clawed their way back from 1-0 down to take the lead.

But the defence — with Rob Johnson recalled in place of sick Tim Breacker — was not the rock it was against Sheffield Wednesday.

Wimbledon had all the early chances and would have taken the lead in the seventh min-

By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

ute but for the brilliance of Les Sealey.

The 'keeper, who handed in a transfer request at the end of last season, pulled off a magnificent reflex save to deny the Dons an early lead.

The game appeared to be heading for a first-half stalemate until in the 41st minute, giant John Fashanu picked out Dennis Wise, and the tricky wide man was up-ended in the box by skipper Steve Foster.

And Fashanu it was who stepped forward from just a couple of paces to bamboozle Sealey who was left rooted to the spot.

Hatters had struggled up front despite constant pressure, including a string of early corners.

Danny Wilson forced Dons' Division One debutant 'keeper Ron Green into consecutive



● MY BALL... David Preece takes on the Dons' defence

THE LINE-UP

LUTON: Sealey, Johnson, Grimes, Williams, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Preece, Harford, Oldfield and Black. Subs not used: Wegerle and Dreyer.

WIMBLEDON: Green, Joseph, Phelan, Ryan, Young, Scales, Gibson (Turner), Fairweather, Fashanu, Sanchez (Brooke), Wise.

Attendance: 8,067.

saves but he was rarely called into action.

And it was his own defence that finally beat him on the stroke of half-time.

Wilson sent in a hopeful high ball which Lawrie Sanchez took on his chest. As a host of Hatters appealed for handball, Mick Harford kept his concentration and whipped over a cross cum shot which Ryan turned past his

stranded 'keeper.

Northern Ireland international Kingsley Black finished off Hatters best move of the game by nodding his first senior goal for Hatters in the 57th minute.

Foster started the proceedings with a defence-splitting ball which allowed Harford to find Wilson. He fed Johnson down the line and the full back — who found his touch as the game wore on — crossed a marvellous ball onto Black's head.

But Hatters defence was back on the rocks as the half hour approached.

Donaghy missed a challenge on Fashanu and the gentleman number nine lumbered towards goal, but Sealey was up to his shot for his third fine save.

Fashanu wreaked havoc from the corner to let Dons level. Hatters were static as he leapt for the ball and Carlton Fairweather volleyed home as he fell.

Yet Hatters still had a gift chance to steal the points right at the death when an unmarked Foster got on the end of a measured Johnson cross but headed wide.

'I didn't want a battle' - Ray

Boss Ray Harford admitted he thought Hatters would have problems scoring at home this term after the departure of the Stein brothers.

The manager — delighted his team had at least got on the score sheet, said: "We are going to miss Brian's and Mark's goals but that does not mean other players will not score."

Harford picked a team to take the sting out of Wimbledon when he dropped new boys Roy Wegerle and John Dreyer.

"I tried to cater for a football match. I felt I did not want to get involved in a battle again like last week.

"I knew Ashley Grimes and David Preece would control and pass the ball.

"But it always seems that at home when we score goals we concede them too."



HANDS UP... David Oldfield and Eric Young