

BLUNDER MAKES HATTERS SUFFER

THE LINE-UP

LUTON: Sealey, R Johnson, Dreyer, Williams, Foster, M Johnson, Wilson, Oldfield (Wegerle 65), Harford, Hill, Black. **Other Sub:** Breacker. **MAN UTD:** Leighton, Garton, Blackmore, Bruce, McGrath, Duxbury, Robson, Davenport, McClair, Hughes, Olsen. **Subs:** Sharp and O'Brien.

• Attendance 11,010.

MIDFIELD MAESTRO Ricky Hill stepped into the role vacated by Brian Stein in a bid to spice up Hatters' attack. 88/89

The 29-year-old — out all season with an injured hamstring — played in the 'hole' behind front runners Mick Harford and David Oldfield and immediately things began to click for Hatters.

Playing there for the first time in his long career, Hill ran the show for the opening 25 minutes and brought the best out of Harford.

Hatters' England striker looked a new man with the sort of service he's been lacking so far this season.

He was involved in everything good about Luton, and looked the complete striker as he fired in testing shots, tackled back, controlled everything his colleagues threw at him and at times laid the ball off perfectly.

But one moment of madness left Hatters chasing a game they should have been well in control of before the first quarter of an hour had elapsed.

And gradually, Hill's effectiveness drained away, as he was bypassed in favour of long and at times desperate football aimed at Harford.

**LUTON 0
MAN UTD 2**
By **MICHAEL
WEINSTEIN**

Last week, Luton almost made Southampton pay for missing a hatful of chances, but this time, United were less generous.

Hatters tore United apart in the opening 20 minutes, carving out four excellent scoring chances.

With less than a minute on the clock, Steve Foster — who was booked late in the half for a foul — just failed to get on the end of a Steve Williams free-kick.

Booked

Then David Oldfield chipped a delightful ball over United's Billy Garton to send Harford bearing down on goal but he could not finish.

From the corner, Williams tested Jim Leighton with a low angled drive and then Danny Wilson — also booked for a foul — fired a good opportunity across goal.

An 11th minute corner fell nicely to Kingsley Black on the edge of the box and his shot was stopped on the line by Leighton and then cleared by Paul McGrath.

Harford opened up the visitors' defence in the 17th minute when his trap and flick let Steve Williams play a marvellous ball into the path of Black, but again the chance was wasted.

Then it all went wrong for Hatters.

Les Sealey's only glimpse of the ball until the 20th minute was when he ran past it



TRUE GRIT... United's Paul McGrath mixes it with Mick Harford. *Pictures: Nigel Wigglesworth*

changing ends before the kick off.

But John Dreyer played a very poor ball to 19-year-old Marvin Johnson — in for injured Mal Donaghy — and the defender lost out to United's Peter Davenport who raced clear and slotted past the helpless Sealey.

After the break, Williams — who resorted to a string of aimless overhead kicks as the match wore on — wasted an early free kick, Wilson tested Leighton after 75 minutes and seconds later Harford sent a spectacular header just over.

But with only five minutes left on the clock, United and England captain Bryan Robson delivered a killer blow when he timed his run to perfection and finished off Jesper Olsen's cross with a smart header.