

Hero Foster defies agony

88/89 (ALC)



• **BRAVE** — Foster



• **SCORER** — Hill

BRAVE SKIPPER Steve Foster took his stitches tally against Burnley past the 15 mark as Hatters battled into the Littlewoods Cup third round.

The inspirational centre-back took the field after the interval in agony, with his left thigh heavily strapped and a huge gash in his leg.

The wound later required six stitches, to add to the 11 he needed in a terrible head gash after the first-leg clash with Burnley a fortnight ago.

Foster refused to be subbed after pulling a thigh muscle as right-back Rob Johnson was receiving treatment for a twisted ankle that saw him limp off after 24 minutes.

And Littlewoods Cup holders Luton needed all of Foster's calm leadership during a first-half assault by Division Four leaders Burnley — who boasted a 100 per cent home record until Tuesday night.

Burnley — who were more impressive at Kenilworth Road — threw everything they had at Luton in the opening

BURNLEY 0 LUTON 1 **By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN**

Luton win 2-1 on aggregate

period, without ever testing keeper Les Sealey.

The only moment of danger came in the 16th minute, when Paul Atkinson's long drive whistled past Sealey's outstretched hand — and fortunately the post.

Indeed the best chance of the first 45 minutes fell to Luton — who by manager Ray Harford's admission played well below par until the second-half — when David Oldfield side-footed wide from Kingsley Black's surging run and cross.

The game burst into life after Hatters opened the scoring eight minutes into the second-half.

Steve Williams set Ricky Hill on the break with a superb chest pass and when Danny Wilson's shot was deflected for a corner, Hill was there again to flick the ball nonchalantly home from point blank range off Burnley's Peter Daniel.

Two great chances followed for Hatters.

First Mal Donaghy surged forward after cancelling out another Burnley foray and found himself one-on-one with Burnley keeper Chris Pearce.

Donaghy did everything right, keeping his shot hard and low but Pearce saved well.

Then Steve Gardner was called into emergency action as Mick Harford's looping header dropped towards goal — the centre-back clearing spectacularly from under the bar.

The Burnley faithful were convinced Oghani had levelled on 68 minutes but referee Wright had blown long before and Hatters lived to fight another day.

THE LINE-UP

BURNLEY: Pearce, Daniel, Farrell, Rowell, Zelem, Gardner, Britton, Oghani, O'Connell, Comstive, Atkinson. Subs: Taylor and McGrory.

LUTON: Sealey, Johnson (Breacker 24), Drever, Williams, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Oldfield (Allinson 74), Harford, Hill, Black.