

SUPER LES CAN'T STOP THE BLUES!

KEEPER Les Sealey was the centre of controversy as Hatters' slipped to another disappointing defeat.

The former Coventry player was jeered throughout and the reception became even more hostile after two saves in the 22nd minute, when Sky Blue players and fans were convinced the ball had crossed the line on both occasions.

But, as Luton's defence came under fire time and time again, the inevitable goal came to keep the visitors a lowly 16th in Division 1.

Coventry mounted continual raids down the flanks, giving full backs Ashley Grimes — another former Sky Blue — and Rob Johnson a torrid afternoon.

But the home side's shaky defence always allowed Hatters' a chance to equalise.

And had Mick Harford received the kind of midfield support David Speedie gave to Coventry, Luton could have snatched a point.

Harford's return after a three match absence, was an early source of inspiration as Luton started impressively.

A cross from Kingsley Black was just too high for the England striker, but on seven minutes Rob Johnson's centre created the first chance.

Harford headed the ball down to Black whose shot was blocked, only for the rebound to fall to Harford who forced Steve Ogrizovic into a fine diving save.

But as the home side found their feet, Sealey made his first stop, comfortably collecting David Smith's header.

Minutes later he was quickly off his line to save well at the feet of Cyrille Regis, who was given a clear run on goal after Steve Foster

COVENTRY 1 LUTON 0
By SIMON OXLEY

THE LINE-UPS

COVENTRY CITY: Ogrizovic, Burrows, Downs, Sedgley, Kilcline, Rodger, Clark, Speedie, Regis, Bannister, Smith. Subs: Houchen, Thompson.

LUTON TOWN: Sealey, R. Johnson, Grimes, Williams (Oldfield 83), Foster, M. Johnson, Wilson, Wegerle, Harford, Hill, Black. Sub: James.

Attendance: 12,631.

Referee: Keith Burge (Tonypandy).

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completely misjudged a long through ball.

With full backs Greg Downs and the excellent Brian Borrows supporting their wingers, Coventry continued the aerial bombardment to keep Hatters' defence under the cosh.

And in the 22nd minute the Gods were certainly smiling on Luton as the Sky Blues claimed two goals.

Firstly Speedie's header was clutched on the goal line by Sealey, with the home side shouting for a goal.

Seconds later their protests were stronger as Gary Bannister's shot hit the inside of the post, Smith got to the rebound, and somehow Sealey clawed the

ball away from under the crossbar.

The crowd were incensed as referee Keith Burge waved play on, but to Sealey's credit, score or not, it was excellent goalkeeping.

Spurred on by their misfortune, Coventry continued the assault, but Luton looked dangerous on the break, and Steve Williams' through ball forced Ogrizovic to save at Roy Wegerle's feet - only for the linesman to rule offside.

The goal that did count came on 36 minutes, after Steve Sedgley's shot had been deflected for a corner, which Hatters failed to clear.

Smith's crisp cross



• My ball — Supersaver Les Sealey beats Cyrille Regis in a mid air battle

saw Graham Rodger's glancing header find the corner of the net, beyond Sealey's despairing dive.

It was no less than the Sky Blues deserved, but Luton pressed for an equaliser and Harford completely missed the ball as a mistimed clearance fell invitingly at his feet.

The second half was a much more even affair, and Hatters applied the early pressure.

A delightful weaving run from Ricky Hill led to a stinging 30 yard drive from Williams, and Black's spectacular

far post volley found the side netting.

A floodlight failed, and the live wire Speedie raced in unchallenged to head Smith's free kick just wide.

But Luton sensed the chance of an equaliser, and Ogrizovic was earning his money with further saves from Wegerle, and then from Black, after the Northern Ireland international had cut in to fire a left foot shot.

In the 83rd minute David Oldfield replaced Williams, and as Coventry settled for a 1-0 win there was always the

possibility of a late equaliser.

But although the home back four looked uncomfortable, the formidable Ogrizovic was an obstacle Hatters could not overcome. So it was in the last minute as six Luton shirts were waiting for Rob Johnson's cross - but so was the Coventry keeper.

As the rogue floodlight failed again, Grimes was booked for a clumsy challenge on Speedie, and the lights went out for the last time on Hatters' bid for a point.