LITTLEWOODS CUP - HOLDERS HIT FORM AGAIN

Wegerle fits the bill

Luton.....3 Manchester City.....1
By BRIAN SCOVELL

ROY WEGERLE was a misfit during his two years at Chelsea but is fitting in perfectly at Kenilworth Road.

Two goals last night, which brought his tally to five in the last three matches, put the Littlewoods Cup holders into the quarter-finals and he also laid on the other for David Oldfield.

His pace, particularly in the first half when he twice outstripped Nigel Gleghorn, proved decisive.

Wegerle learned his football in the North American Soccer League, playing with the likes of Pele, Cruyff, George Best and Rodney Marsh.

Sensible

According to manager Ray Harford he has some of Marsh's tricks. 'He's terrific to watch when he does his tricks,' said Harford. 'But we've hammered them out of him while he's learning to play in the First Division. He's unbelievably quick and is a sensible, eloquent boy.'

The 24 year old South African has taken time to establish himself here, and claims it was because Chelsea played him out of position. But now it is all coming good for him.

With three centre forwards in his team, Harford had Luton forsaking their usual passing game in favour of the aerial route.

'It wasn't a pretty game to watch,' he admitted. And with City joining in the offside game the 10,178 crowd had little skill or finesse to excite them.

Despite the protestations of manager Mel Machin that his team had played well and deserved better, City's young side was disappointing.

They had the advantage of going ahead in the eighth minute when David White superbly volleyed in Gleghorn's cross.

But Luton's rugged rearguard, with Steve Foster directing, soon took control. Oldfield's equaliser in the 16th minute was a simple tap-in when Andy Dibble, Luton's hero in the Final last season, failed to hold Wegerle's cross shot.

A backheel from Wegerle soon afterwards left Australian-born Oldfield clear again but he shot wide, and near the end was through against Dibble only to shoot tamely against the keeper.

Wegerle's first goal in the 21st minute was well taken after teenager Richard Harvey hacked a 40 yard ball over City's advancing back line and Brian Gayle played him onside.

Hoisted

In five mad minutes in the second half Luton had the ball in the net three times through David Preece twice and Danny Wilson but each time the linesman's flag was held aloft.

'It's not often you win six one and struggle,' quipped Harford.

Four minutes from time Harvey hoisted a free kick from the left, Oldfield knocked it back and Wegerle rammed it over the line.