

UNLUCKY 13 FOR MARVIN

Johnson's own-goal tragedy

AN AMAZING own-goal from centre-half Marvin Johnson handed Aston Villa an unexpected share of the points at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

Leading through Roy Wegerle's first-half goal the Hatters seemed set for their second successive First Division win until Johnson's 61st minute back-pass looped over a stranded Les Sealey from fully 25 yards out.

It was a personal tragedy for the improving young defender, playing his 13th senior game, who had looked composed throughout the rest of the match as Luton's back-four effectively snuffed out the threat of 17-goal striker Alan McNally.

Ironically, Sealey hardly had a save to make all afternoon as Ray Harford's side maintained their recent improved form but they paid the price for missing several good first-half chances.

After Villa's Andy Gray struck a free-kick just past Sealey's right-hand post the Hatters missed a golden opportunity to take the lead with Danny Wilson the culprit five minutes before half-time.

The impressive Kingsley Black turned neatly to slide the ball across the area but Wilson screwed his shot wide with the goal gaping.

Luton . . . 1 ^{89/89} Aston Villa . . . 1

But two minutes later Luton took the lead with Black again instrumental in the move as his pass found Mick Harford who set up Wegerle for a well-placed shot into the bottom corner.

But with Harford effec-

tively restrained by Villa centre-half Martin Keown Luton's chances were few and far between after the break, but the visitors looked even less likely to score until Johnson's unbelievable blunder.



Pictures: Dave Poole.

● Danny Wilson slides in to win the ball from Villa's David Platt.