

Bright spark ruins Dowie's big night

88/89(sc)

Crystal Palace4 Luton1

A SUPERB debut goal from striker Iain Dowie was the only bright spot as Luton crashed out of the Simod Cup at Selhurst Park on Tuesday night.

Dowie's 18th minute strike gave the Hatters the lead but their under-strength side was then comprehensively taken apart by the twin strike-force of Mark Bright and Ian Wright.

Bright helped himself to a first-half hat-trick and Wright wrapped the game up with the fourth goal, three minutes after the break.

Despite being without seven regulars Luton started brightly and almost took the lead after 11 minutes when Ricky Hill's chip hit the bar.

But seven minutes later they took the lead when Dowie, who celebrated his 24th birthday on Monday, latched onto a David Oldfield flick to shrug off a defender and strike a superb left-foot shot past Perry Suckling.

It took Palace just six minutes to equalise with Bright forcing the ball home in a goalmouth scramble and five minutes later the striker grabbed his second after Alan Pardew's shot had been cleared off the line by Julian James.

Four minutes before the



● Alec Chamberlain — great saves.

break Bright duly completed his hat-trick when he converted John Pemberton's cross after Steve Williams had been robbed in midfield.

Not to be outdone, Bright's partner Wright then took centre stage as he killed off any chance of a Hatters revival — latching onto a rebound from Alec Chamberlain to score Palace's fourth.

Despite the scoreline Chamberlain enjoyed a fine senior debut and kept the scoreline down with two fine saves, including a brilliant full-length dive to deny Pemberton.

Luton: Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Williams (Wegerle, 77), James, M. Johnson, Preece, Dowie, Harford, Oldfield, Hill. Sub (not used): Harvey.