

Ray's Wembley worry

88/89

BOSS RAY Harford finally conceded Hatters' big Wembley date is affecting his troops.

The manager watched his players turn in another woeful first-half performance at QPR before coming out with guns blazing after the re-start.

And he admitted: "We were second best in the first half — there's something in the back of their minds.

"I've told the players that if they don't produce they will not play in the final.

"They are looking over their shoulders at something — possibly Wembley — they're wary they don't get injured and they are trying not to get booked."

And Harford added: "We are not aggressive and forceful — especially in the first-half — and I can't make it

out.

"But we can't keep doing it or we'll get smashed to pieces."

Indeed, on a night when Hatters had to

Stars stutter as new-boy Raf limps off



• Raphael Meade.

QPR 1 LUTON 1
BY MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

THE LINE-UP

QPR: Seaman, Maddix, Faraday, Parker, McDonald, Spackman, Gray (Barker 59), Stein, Clarke, Reid, Allen. Other sub: Kerslake.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Harvey, McDonough, Foster, Beaumont, Wilson, Meade (Dowie 67), Harford, Hill, Black. Other sub: Dreyer.

• Attendance: 9372.

win to end a depressing run of results, they were lucky to go in level at the interval.

Les Sealey rescued Hatters with excellent saves from Alan McDonald and Luton old boy Mark Stein.

And even when Sealey was beaten Rangers let Hatters off the hook with the hindrance of their sand-

soaked pitch.

But Hatters were a different team after the break and new signing Raphael Meade brought the best out of Rangers' keeper David Seaman twice in four minutes.

The £250,000 capture from Dundee United — who later retired with a hamstring injury which is likely to rule him out of Saturday's trip to Old Trafford — fired in two rasping shots which Seaman did

well to halt.

Ricky Hill broke Rangers' hearts when he netted Hatters' first away league goal since December 10.

Hill latched on to Darron McDonough's through ball and drilled a low, angled shot past Seaman.

But Rangers pulled level within a minute when Peter Reid tapped a harshly awarded free kick back to Colin Clarke who curled a magnificent shot home.