

John's goal doubt

FLU-HIT John Dreyer fears his first goal for Hatters might be credited to Raphael Meade.

Dreyer rose high to meet David Preece's 54th minute corner but thinks Meade might have got a touch.

The full-back admitted he should have won three points in the dying minutes.

Dreyer was just inches away from a beautifully flighted cross but said: "I got cramp as I tried to get off the ground and I couldn't move — I should have scored."

• At last — defender John Dreyer (obscured) nets his first goal in a Luton shirt... and celebrates in style.

Harford's thoughts are with Liverpool

SICKENED boss Ray Harford put Hatters' relegation troubles into perspective when he asked reporters: "You don't want to talk about football after what's happened at Hillsborough, do you?"

The manager was visibly shocked by the appalling scenes from Sheffield but did say he was disappointed with his defence after two soft goals cost Hatters vital points.

Angry

"We played some good stuff but we did not defend very well.

"I'm disappointed, not angry, I find it hard to be angry with the players.

"They went about the game in the right fashion, I can't be angry.

Harford praised the crowd for their patience as Hatters tried to pass their way to victory.

"They allowed us to be slower in the build up and we will need to be patient to survive.

"The lads should take credit for playing like that in such a crucial game."

DEBUT BOY ALEC TAKES THE RAP!

DEBUT KEEPER ALEC Chamberlain took the rap for the goal that left Hatters in desperate relegation trouble.

Chamberlain had made three telling saves before the 80th minute blunder that gifted Coventry's David Smith an equaliser.

The 24-year-old — playing his first league game since joining Hatters in the summer — collided with David Beaumont as he came for the ball and Smith nodded gratefully home.

"It was my fault," said Chamberlain.

"I thought the ball had gone high enough for me to get it but at the important moment we collided, Smith beat me to the ball and it trickled in.

Chamberlain had clocked up 203 league games with Colchester and Tranmere before Saturday, but his only first team appearance for Hatters since his £150,000 arrival from Everton was in the 4-1 Simod Cup defeat at Crystal Palace.

The keeper was told he was taking over from axed Les Sealey on Friday.

He said: "It was a nice surprise and it looked like it was going to be a winning debut until the second goal.

LUTON 2 COVENTRY 2 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN



• Alec Chamberlain.

"I knew when I came here that it would not be easy to get in the first team.

"Les is very experienced but I felt that by coming here rather than staying at Everton, I would get more chances through injuries as Les is 31. But that has not been the case.

"It's frustrating playing in the reserves but now I have got a chance, hopefully I will be able to stay in the first team."

Chamberlain made the only save of the first half when Cyrille Regis dummied a David Smith cross and the keeper reacted quickly to clutch the ball at the far post.

And the 24-year-old had to be alert when Steve Sedgley fired in from 20 yards just after the re-start.

Chamberlain was forced into emergency action after 52 minutes

when Gary Bannister — a half-time substitute for Dean Emerson — burst into the box.

The keeper saved at Bannister's feet and when David Phillips followed up, Tim Breacker cleared off the line.

Luton took the lead two minutes later when Raphael Meade — making his home debut — headed against Graham Rodger's hand and after referee Dennis Hedges had turned down the penalty claims, John Dreyer rose high to meet David Preece's corner and the ball nestled firmly in the net.

Meade should have done better after 68 minutes when Preece sent him galloping towards goal, but two minutes later it was Coventry who scored, when Regis hit a speculative shot towards goal and the ball took a deflection off Steve Foster into the net.

Hatters went back in front when Danny Wilson's cross hit Rodger's hand and referee Hedges obliged.

Wilson's penalty was saved by Steve Ogrizovic but the speedy midfielder followed up and blasted home.

Then came Chamberlain's moment of despair, and Hatters had lost two vital points.

THE LINE-UP

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Grimes, Preece, Foster, Beaumont, Wilson, Wegerle, Meade (Cooke 69), Hill, Black. Other sub: McDonough.

COVENTRY: Ogrizovic, Borrows, Dobson, Emerson (Bannister), Rodger, Downs, Phillips, Speedie, Regis, Sedgley, Smith. Other sub: Clark.

• Attendance: 8,610.



• Canny Danny — Wilson lashes the rebound home from his penalty.

Sealey 'not psyched up'

KEEPER LES Sealey was axed from Saturday's line up because he was not psyched up.

The fiery Londoner — who handed in a transfer request while he was out of the first team last term — was given the news 24 hours earlier by boss Ray Harford.

Sealey was blamed by the manager, players and fans alike for the mistake that allowed Nottingham Forest back into the Littlewoods Cup.

Wembley

The keeper came racing out of his goal and hauled down Steve Hodge when there was little chance of the Forest star netting.

Skipper Steve Foster called the foul ridiculous while Sealey hit back saying he would do the same again.

The 31-year-old went to Saturday's pre-match meal and the team talk before driving away from Kenilworth Road.

Harford said: "I did not feel Les was in the right frame of mind to play. I did not drop



• Les Sealey.

him because of what happened at Wembley.

"The selection was right because if Les had made a mistake, it would have killed the atmosphere in the team.

"I told Les on Friday, he came to the team talk and the hotel but he did not stay for the game."



• Debut striker — Raphael Meade.