

GEORDIE JOHN'S STILL WAITING!

DEFENDER John Dreyer's Geordie blues continued as Hatters dropped two more vital points.

The 25-year-old is still waiting to have had a good game in his native North East.

Geordie-born Dreyer said he's been plagued by sleepless nights before playing on Tyneside and Teeside in front of friends and relatives.

And despite being the man-of-the-match choice for many Newcastle-based reporters, Dreyer said: "I was disappointed after the game, I felt I could have done a lot more."

"I had a lot of running left in me — and I like to feel shattered when I come off the field."

"I played better than I have ever played up here before but I should have done more."

And Dreyer concluded: "It must be something in the air up here!"

The defender, who had 17 family and friends watching him in action, was born in Alnwick just 20 miles from Newcastle.

He said his teammates were in good spirits despite the loss of two points.

"Normally we'd be happy with a draw away from home but in our

NEWCASTLE 0 LUTON 0 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN



• John Dreyer.
present position I don't think it was good enough.

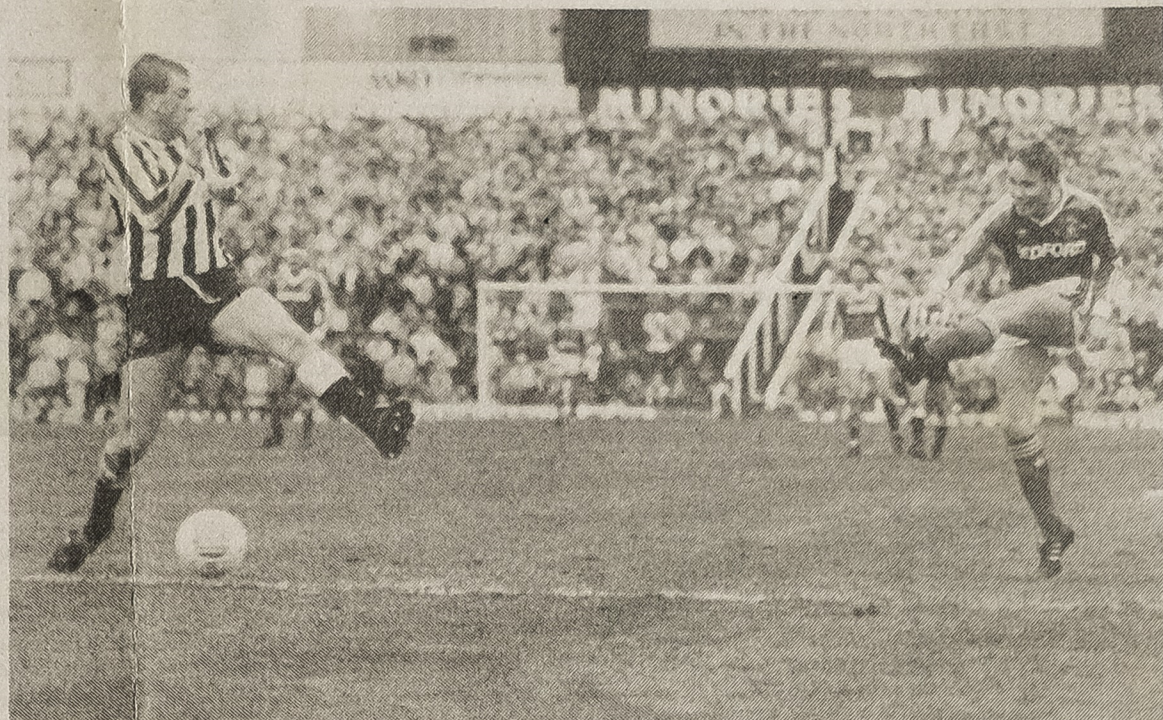
"We should have won, they were a poor team, but we couldn't get on the end of anything."

Dreyer formed part of a solid Luton rear-guard that kept their first league clean sheet for 12 games.

That last shut-out came in Hatters last league win — 1-0 against fellow strugglers Middlesbrough — since when they have collected just three points.

The defence allowed few chances against a fired-up Newcastle outfit that was even more desperate for a win than Hatters.

But it was at the other end that the players faltered, as they failed to take advantage



• Kingsley cracker — the youngster fires past Andy Thorn.

of an injury to keeper Gary Kelly.

The Eire international could barely walk after a first-minute clash with Tim Breacker and later needed six stitches in a knee wound.

Hatters forced just one clear-cut chance against Newcastle's sweeper system when Danny Wilson raced down the right after 13 minutes. His cross evaded the hobbling Kelly but Kingsley Black failed to hit the target from a difficult angle.

Dreyer's lofted cross-cum-shot sailed just inches over the bar with the keeper again stranded.

And seconds later, Ricky Hill got on the end of a free kick only to see his shot blocked by Mick Harford.

Newcastle broke straight away and when Paul Sweeney slipped in

Michael O'Neill, the striker who netted a hat-trick against Luton last term looked certain to score but he screwed his shot wide.

David Preece's shocking 49th minute back pass let in Newcastle's John Hendrie but Alec Chamberlain — playing only his second league game for Luton — raced out to smother the danger.

Midfielder Danny Wilson fired over on the hour and 17 minutes later shot straight at Kelly as Hatters belatedly began to test the keeper.

Industrious Black blasted a low 25 yarder past the post but the best chance of the game for either side came in injury time when substitute Mirandinha took the ball on his chest and volleyed wide from inside the six-yard box.

THE LINE-UP

NEWCASTLE: Kelly, Kristensen (Wharton 81), Sansom, McCreery, Scott, Roeder, Hendrie, Sweeney, Thorn, O'Neill (Mirandinha 60), Brock.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Preece, Foster, Beaumont, Wilson, Wegerle (Meade 68), Harford, Hill, Black (McDonough 83).

• Bookings: Harford, Wilson and Preece (Luton) and Hendrie and Mirandinha (Newcastle).

• Attendance: 18,493.