

BLACK SWOOPS TO CONQUER!

Kingsley cracker seals it

YOUNG Eagle of the month Kingsley Black swooped in to seal victory for Hatters — and end the most depressing spell of his short career.

The jaded midfielder was devastated after last month's Littlewoods Cup defeat.

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He has run himself into the ground with scant reward during Hatters' relegation dogfight.

And he was axed from Billy Bingham's Northern Ireland World Cup line-up which beat Malta last week.

Black collected a sparkling silver salver before Saturday's game to mark his Barclays Young Eagle player-of-the-month award and in the 82nd minute he beat Peter Shilton to secure Hatters' first win in 11 games.

The youngster pounced on an appalling Geraint Williams back pass and teased the England number one before firing his first goal for 16 games into the far corner.

Black said: "I haven't scored for a while so it was great to put one in but it was a bit of a gift."

"I was about to turn and run back and de-

LUTON 3 DERBY 0 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN Pictures: BRUCE RAIDL

fend when Williams played it straight to me.

"It was almost as if I had to much time to score — you look a bit of a fool if you miss."

And the youngster fired a defiant message at those who have written Hatters off.

"I think we have got a damn sight better chance of staying up than anyone is giving us credit for."

The game exploded five minutes after Black's strike.

With the game well beyond Derby's reach, Roy Wegerle went down in the box three minutes from time and when referee John Carter pointed to the spot, the

visitors went wild.

Skipper Mark Wright was one of at least six players to launch themselves at the man-in-the-middle and was sent off — only for Shilton to save Mick Harford's spot kick.

The keeper carried on his war of words with Carter after the save and had been equally vocal when Hatters were awarded a penalty after just 106 seconds.

Shilton hauled down David Preece and Danny Wilson — who had been subbed before the second spot kick — rolled the ball home in style.

Hatters were denied another penalty when Preece was felled after



• Black magic — the youngster smashes his goal past Shilton.

28 minutes and 60 seconds later Harford was just inches away from Black's cross.

Shilton was fortunate when Wilson's 32nd minute shot inadvertently struck him.

But his luck ran out 19 minutes after the re-

start when Harford leapt high to power a Preece cross home.

Luton keeper Alec Chamberlain was equal to his only real test after 67 minutes when he pushed a Dean Saunders effort over the bar.

BIG MATCH LINE-UP

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Preece, Foster, Beaumont, Wilson (Cooke 78), Wegerle, Harford, Hill, Black. Other sub: McDonough.

DERBY: Shilton, Blades, Forsyth, Williams, Wright, Hindmarch, McMinn, Saunders, Goddard (Cross 75), Hebberd (Gee 75), Micklewhite.

• Attendance: 8,507.