

CRUEL BLOW

Canaries lose prized place

NORWICH manager Dave Stringer hit out at the controversial decisions made by substitute referee Mick Bailey that cost Norwich the match.

Stringer could not believe how Bailey, who replaced David Hutchinson, awarded Luton a second-half penalty and First Division survival.

The goal has almost certainly put paid to Norwich finishing the season in third place.

'Not one of my players knows why that penalty was given,' said Stringer. 'It was apparently for a push but nobody did it, let alone saw it.'

'The fact that Middlesbrough have been relegated by a decision like that shows just how cruel football can be.'

Pressure

Luton had been awarded another penalty 11 minutes into the game when Trevor Putney was judged to have pushed Roy Wegerle, only for Danny Wilson to place his shot wide.

Stringer had some justification for complaining but in fairness Norwich never really looked like getting a result.

From the start Luton applied the pressure as attacks rained down on the makeshift Norwich defence.

Skipper Mike Phelan had to replace Andy Linighan in defence, only for him to be replaced during the game by Robert Rosario after stretching a hamstring.

Mr Bailey, meanwhile, enjoyed a field-day on the plastic, booking four Norwich and three Luton players.

In the closing minutes he even dropped his book, no doubt because of the weight of players' names inside it.

Mick Harford sent a header crashing against the post with Brian Gunn beaten in the 16th minute and for a time it looked like Norwich could hold out.

The second penalty came in the 62nd minute when villain

Luton 1 Norwich 0
By IAN STAFFORD

Danny Wilson became the hero by hitting the target.

Gunn did well to push Wegerle's 20-yard effort on to the post in the 80th minute as Luton tried to press home their advantage.

It was Norwich, though, having previously contributed little, who nearly snatched an undeserved equaliser in the last minute.

Dean Coney's shot produced a spectacular save from Alec Chamberlain to deny what looked a certain goal.



GOAL ... Danny Wilson celebrates with Kinasley Black and Mick Harford