



• That's better — Wilson beats Gunn with his second effort and Hatters are guaranteed First Division soccer next season.

DANNY SEALS THE GREAT ESCAPE!

'Foul' that made it safe

COOL-HEADED Danny Wilson was determined to seal Hatters' First Division future from the spot despite having already missed a penalty.

The Northern Ireland International held his head in his hands in sheer desperation after firing a first-half penalty wide of the post.

But Wilson had no doubts about who should take responsibility when stand-in referee Mike Bailey pointed to the spot again amid controversy in the 62nd minute.

Neither Wilson — nor any of his team-mates — knew what the penalty was for.

Nor did the 29-year-old know that a draw would have been enough to keep Hatters in the top flight as he lined up one-against-one with Norwich keeper Bryan Gunn.

And there was no doubting his delight as Wilson danced back to the centre circle with the ball planted firmly in the back of the net.

"I can't remember scoring a more vital goal," admitted Wilson. "Though a draw would have done, I did not know that at the time."

"I was very relieved after the first penalty disaster to get a second bite at the cherry."

"It was a long time before I stepped up to take the first one and by the time I came to take it I was thinking too much about it."

"If I could have taken it more quickly I would

LUTON 1 NORWICH 0
By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN



• Alec Chamberlain — great save.

probably have put it away — maybe my nerves got the better of me."

Referee Bailey awarded the second spot kick for a foul on the midfielder but Wilson insisted he was not pushed and the only other Luton player in the box — Mick Harford — did likewise.

"We were very fortunate to get a second penalty — but I had no second thoughts about taking it."

"There was a long

pause before I could take it but I learned my lesson from the first penalty and put everything out of my mind."

Relieved Ray Harford paid tribute to Wilson's pressure strike, saying: "It took some bottle didn't it?"

"There was no doubt in my mind that Danny should take the second penalty."

"He is very much a man and he showed how brave and courageous he is."

Wilson's first penalty came 11 minutes into this do or die game for Hatters.

Roy Wegerle was felled by Trevor Putney after Mick Harford's clever knock down but Wilson screwed his penalty wide.

Hatters could have been forgiven for thinking this wasn't to be their day when Harford glanced a 17th minute



• Mystery — referee Bailey felt Harford was fouled here and Wilson netted from the spot.

header against the post.

And the giant Geordie watched in horror again after 28 minutes when he failed to convert Wegerle's powerful cross.

Six names went into Bailey's book before Wilson netted from the spot as the man-in-the-middle penalised even

the pettiest of offences.

Gunn saved well from long-range second-half efforts by Wegerle and Ricky Hill and the keeper turned another Wegerle effort onto the post after 82 minutes.

Skipper Steve Foster was the seventh player to be booked on the stroke of full time as

Hatters began to wobble.

And the drama continue long into injury time as Alec Chamberlain pulled off a wonder save from Norwich sub Dean Coney, leaving nearest man David Preece declaring: "I don't know how he saved it."

THE LINE-UP

LUTON: Chamberlain, Brecker, Dreyer, Preece, Foster, Beaumont, Wilson, Wegerle, Harford, Hill, Black. Subs: Cooke and McDonough.

NORWICH: Gunn, Culverhouse, Crook, Butterworth, Putney, Townsend, Gordon (Allen 81), Fleck, Rosario, Phelan (Coney 30), Cook.

Bookings: Luton: Dreyer, Beaumont, Foster. Norwich: Putney, Rosario, Crook, Gordon.

• Attendance: 10,862.



• Mobbed — scorer Wilson is congratulated by his delighted team-mates.