

RAY'S AWAYDAY MISERY GOES ON

DISAPPOINTED manager Ray Harford surveyed the ruins of another awayday defeat and quipped: "At least we weren't as bad as Manchester United!"

Goal-happy Manchester City followed up their 5-1 demolition of fierce rivals United by sending Harford's troops to their third away defeat this term.

Hatters have not won a league match away from Kenilworth Road since December 10 last year — when a Mick Harford strike secured the points at Derby.

Fourteen games and only four goals later, and Harford was left to say: "I'm down-hearted because we keep losing away from home.

"At Coventry we played stuffily and got criticised. Here we were exciting but when we play like that we get done at the back.

"I couldn't see City getting another five — but after the first quarter-of-an-hour, I wasn't so sure."

Harford said he was considering picking different players for home and away games in a bid to solve the problem.

He saw his side out-gunned in the opening exchanges before fight-

MAN CITY 3 LUTON 1 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

ing back to dominate the game — only to suffer a crushing blow on the stroke of half-time.

"The goal at half-time took the stuffing out of us, though we probably had as many chances as them.

"If we'd come in at 1-1 at the break it would have been a different ball game," he said.

City's game plan was to attack left-back Richard Harvey in his first full game of the season.

Flying winger David White gave the young defender a torrid time and it was from one of



• Oh no! City keeper Paul Cooper denies Luton's Danish star Lars Elstrup at Maine Road.

his many runs that the home side took the lead through ex-Hatter David Oldfield.

White sped clear of the defence after 12 minutes and his cross was met by the flying striker for a breath-taking opener.

City threatened to run riot with the impressive White in exhilarating form but as the second goal eluded them, so their confidence began to wane.

Hatters' record signing Lars Elstrup wasted a gift opportunity on the half-hour when he fired straight at keeper Paul Cooper with the goal beckoning.

The Dane made amends 11 minutes later when he laid the ball off for skipper Danny Wilson — who was hauled down inside the box by Ian Brightwell.

But Hatters' penalty jinx — they've now missed four of the last seven — struck again as Cooper made the 56th spot kick save of his career to deny Roy Wegerle.

The miss was not enough to destroy Hatters' confidence and their persistence was rewarded after 44 minutes when Elstrup headed down a searching Harvey pass and Kingsley Black volleyed home

with his right foot.

Hatters were dealt a shattering blow with just seconds remaining in the half when Oldfield found White and his cross was converted by Ian Bishop.

The second half was a disappointing affair and City effectively killed off the game after 60 minutes when White again broke clear and fired across goal for Brightwell to tap in almost on the line.

Oldfield should have made it four with one minute on the clock but Alec Chamberlain raced from his line and put the youngster off.

THE LINE-UP

MAN CITY: Cooper, Fleming, Hinchcliffe, Bishop, Gayle, Redmond, White, Morley, Oldfield, Brightwell, Lake (McNab 60). Other sub: Megson.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Wilson, Harvey, Beaumont, Kennedy (Johnson 81), Elstrup (Cooke 69), Preece, Black.

• Attendance: 23,863.