



• Canary sandwich — Norwich's Ian Crook grabs Danny Wilson's shirt as team-mates Steve Williams and Roy Wegerle look on.



• Not this time — Nigel Wigglesworth's picture appears to show the ball in the net, but it's dropped behind and Norwich survive.

STEVIE WONDER!

**Stringer:
We did
not get
a sniff**

MIDFIELD genius Steve Williams cracked his first goal for two years to confirm his return to the top-flight.

Williams — so often the whipping boy for the Kenilworth Road faithful since his £300,000 move from Arsenal — was back to his arrogant best as Hatters thumped Norwich.

The 31-year-old — who spent most of last season rotting in the reserves — slammed a 77th minute scorcher as Hatters wiped out the bitter memory of their last outing against Aston Villa.

Skipper Danny Wilson — another to get on the score-sheet in stunning style — was full of praise for Williams, who still needs ice pack treatment on his knee after every game following an early season cartilage operation.

LUTON 4 NORWICH 1
By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN
LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Wilson, Rodger (Harvey 15), Beaumont, Williams, Wegerle, Elstrup, Preece, Black (Dowie 57).
NORWICH: Gunn, Sherwood, Bowen, Butterworth, Linighan, Fox (Goss 62), Gordon, Fleck (Allen 70), Rosario, Crook, Phillips.
• Attendance: 9,038.

style of play and the pitch — which he now seems to have done."

Assistant manager Terry Mancini was equally delighted with Williams.

"He was terrific," said Ray Harford's number two.

"I have never known the crowd chant his name before. He's taken a lot of stick from the supporters so it's nice to see him turn it around and get them on his side."

Williams' prompting from midfield was a major factor in Hatters' dramatic change in fortunes.

The team that performed so dreadfully against Aston Villa were determined to put things right.

Unlike last week, they hit top form from the word go and never allowed their high-flying opponents to settle.

Norwich came to Kenilworth Road looking for a record fifth consecutive league clean sheet away from home — but Kingsley Black put paid to that after just four minutes when his shot from the edge of the box took a deflection and flew past Bryan Gunn.



• Gunned down — Norwich keeper Bryan Gunn is helpless as grounded John Dreyer's goal goes in.

secutive league clean sheet away from home — but Kingsley Black put paid to that after just four minutes when his shot from the edge of the box took a deflection and flew past Bryan Gunn.

Graham Rodger limped off with an ankle ligament injury after 15 minutes but the reshaped defence — with John Dreyer outstanding — was still too much for the visitors.

Roy Wegerle — who only passed a fitness test on his injured ankle on Saturday morning

and was not firing on all cylinders — skipped round Gunn four minutes later, only for the keeper to throw out a despairing hand and recover the ball.

Inches

Norwich's Robert Rosario headed a glorious chance over the bar on 31 minutes and Wegerle shot against Gunn's legs just seconds after referee Brian Stevens had limped off to be replaced by Ron Coaten.

Record-signing Lars Elstrup was inches away

from his first league goal when he headed wide soon after the restart and once Alec Chamberlain had denied Dale Gordon with an excellent save, Hatters never looked back.

John Dreyer stormed into the box after 55 minutes to side-foot home a Williams free kick and Wilson lashed in number three from 20 yards ten minutes later.

It was left to Williams to complete the rout after 77 minutes with his first goal since net-

ting in Arsenal's 2-0 win over Oxford in October 1987.

Lively substitute Iain Dowie leapt above the Norwich rearguard and found Elstrup — now playing impressively behind the strikers — and he squared for Williams to fire home from 25 yards.

Spot

Norwich did pull one back seven minutes from time when Dreyer pushed Jeremy Goss and fellow sub Malcolm Allen scored from the spot.

NORWICH boss Dave Stringer made no excuses for his troops' hammering.

"We were beaten by the better side," said the manager.

"I've got no complaints about the scoreline — they were better than us, there's no doubt about it.

"That's the worst we've played all season, Luton were on top for the whole game and never gave us a sniff."

Luton number two Terry Mancini — standing in for Ray Harford who dashed off for a birthday celebration for his father and son at the final whistle — said: "All we did this week was tell the players to start better.

"After a performance like last week, the players just wanted to get another game under their belts.

"This time we didn't want half-time to come.

"Their attitude was much better and I'm delighted with the performance — though disappointed to give a goal away."



• Nice one Danny — David Preece congratulates the scorer of Luton's third.

Kids crush Canaries too

LUTON'S youth team demolished Norwich in a impressive curtain raiser to Saturday's league game.

Coach John Faulkner's youngsters smashed four past the shell-shocked visitors whose only reply was a solitary second-half strike.

Outplayed

The reserves lost 0-2 to Norwich on Friday night though manager Ray Harford said Hatters completely outplayed their opponents.

Mick O'Brien broke his leg just minutes into the game but Hatters recovered from the blow to play some sparkling football.

Hatters forced a host of corners, saw two shots cleared off the line and another appeared to have gone in — but they went down to two first-half goals.

The reserves entertain local rivals Watford on Saturday and the youth team will be in action at Kenilworth Road too.