

DOWIE'S SO KEEN TO PLAY

STRIKER Iain Dowie is desperate for a run in the first team to prove he's the man to spearhead Hatters' attack.

The blond-haired powerhouse has stormed back into the first-team reckoning with a trio of impressive substitute appearances.

And in the latest, the forward who joined Hatters for just £30,000 from non-league Hendon, made his mark immediately at the Den — when he set up record signing Lars Elstrup for his first league goal.

Dowie — who scored his first and only league goal while on loan at Fulham last month, said: "I just want to get a bit of a run in the side and score some goals."

"It's been frustrating for me while I've not been in the team."

"I'm an enthusiastic player but it's very dif-

MILLWALL 1 LUTON 1 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

icult to keep training when you know you won't be playing.

"When I came last year we were in trouble and it was difficult to pitch me in. I was a bit of a risk."

"But hopefully I have given the manager a reminder of what I can do."

Dowie made his mark while on loan to Fulham. The Londoners were keen to make the

move permanent and Northern Ireland boss Billy Bingham called him into his squad for the second time.

"I really enjoyed it down there — they played through me — and I made things happen. I was playing with a lot of confidence as I had something to prove to myself and the manager."

"Billy came to watch me at Fulham — both my parents are from

Striker Iain inspires Luton at Den

Belfast — and I'd love to get a cap this season."

Dowie entered the fray at wind-hit Millwall after 38 minutes when Roy Wegerle limped off with a recurrence of the ankle injury he picked up earlier this month.

Despite creating the first chance of the game — when skipper Danny Wilson sprung the off-side trap, only to chip over the bar — Hatters were under the cosh until Dowie's appearance.

Keeper Alec Chamberlain saved well from Ian Dawes after eight minutes — but four minutes later the defender blasted the Londoners into the lead after a mistake from Darron McDonough.

Chamberlain was called upon again when winger Jimmy Carter beat John Dreyer before sending over a difficult cross, and seconds later the keeper tipped over a Teddy Sheringham cross-cum-shot.

Sheringham should have done better after 40' minutes when he connected with a Tony Cascarino flick but Chamberlain was there again.

And Hatters had the last laugh before the break when Tim Breacker sent Dowie away down the right



• Dynamite Dowie — the Luton striker battles with Millwall's Steve Wood.

THE LINE-UP

MILLWALL: Horne, Stevens, Dawes, Hurlock, Wood, McLeary, Carter, Waddock, Sheringham, Cascarino, Anthrobus (Sparham 67). Other sub: Torpey. **LUTON:** Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Wilson, McDonough (Harvey 77), Beaumont, Williams, Wegerle (Dowie 38), Elstrup, Kennedy, Black.

• Attendance: 11,140.
• Referee: David Elleray.

and the striker's pinpoint cross was buried by Elstrup.

Dowie inspired Hatters to a storming opening to the second period.

The striker thought he'd netted after 48 minutes when he caught the defence napping but keeper Brian Horne saved well.

Kingsley Black fired wide four minutes later and after great holding work by Dowie after 54 minutes, the youngster bent his shot onto the far post.

Whistle

Injury-hit Darron McDonough was led off the field in agony after 77 minutes having dislocated his shoulder for the second time in five weeks.

And Hatters' rearranged defence had to fight for their lives as the full-time whistle approached.

Cascarino missed the target with a header and with just seconds left on the clock, Chamberlain's heart must have been in his mouth as he slipped back pedalling to a Carter cross but just managed to palm the danger away.



• Black blast — Kingsley fires in at the Den.