



On the way — Iain Dowie (far right) sends his header towards goal... and the ball flies past Peter Shilton for his first goal in Division One.

IT'S IAIN WOWIE!

LUTON 1 DERBY 0
By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

ROCKET man Iain Dowie launched a missile past England keeper Peter Shilton to open his first Division scoring account.

The new darling of the Kenilworth Road faithful — who quit his job at British Aerospace's missile development centre to join Hatters — gave Shilton no chance with a 48th minute header.

Dowie, who came to Hatters for just £25,000, grabbed his first league goal while on loan to Fulham last month — but there was no hiding his delight after this cracker.

The striker — who revealed in last week's Herald & Post how he needed a run in the team to prove his worth — said: "I was desperate to score against Derby to stop the pressure building up."

"It was the sort of goal you thrive on as a centre forward. It was nice to see it go in — but it's been a long time coming."

"I've gone back to playing my own game after Ray Harford told me to go out and do what I do best."

"It's been a battle for me to get in the side since I came from Hendon."

"When you come from non-league soccer you try and do too much on the ball rather than play your own game which is to get the ball — lay it off — and get in the box."

Dowie puts his success down to plenty of extra training and Hatters' star striker Mick Harford. "There's no better person to learn from



• Nice one Iain — the striker is mobbed after his goal.

than Mick," he said.

And the striker had a special word for the fans who chanted his name throughout the game.

"The fans have taken to me and that's very

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

Striker Iain inspires

Luton at Der

• Flashback — last week's Herald & Post.

Roy Wegerle who had not recovered from an ankle injury.

On a day when it was difficult to single out individual stars, Mick Kennedy was outstanding in midfield and Dave Beaumont shone for the way he guided Marvin Johnson through his first game of the season.

Infringement

Derby could have drawn first blood when the outstanding Mark Wright sent Dean Saunders clear but Alec Chamberlain was down well to the shot.

Dowie had the ball in the net after 18 minutes but his half-volley from Lars Elstrup's knock down was ruled out for an earlier infringement.

Saunders just missed with a desperate lunge after 20 minutes and fired in another effort on the stroke of half-



• Flying high — outnumbered Lars Elstrup takes on the Derby rearguard.

time which Chamberlain was again equal to.

But Luton had the last say before the interval when Kingsley Black powered into the box and cut the ball back for Elstrup. The striker got a neat touch and a goal seemed certain until Peter Shilton appeared from nowhere to save.

Luton took the lead three minutes after the interval when Black picked up Danny Wilson's pin-point crossfield pass and centred for Dowie to guide the ball past

Shilton.

Black jinked his way towards goal before curling a powerful effort just wide of Shilton's far post on 52 minutes.

Luton defended well against continuous

Derby pressure — so much so — that their only chance came from a blistering Mark Wright header that smacked into the bar from a corner after 75 minutes.

THE LINE-UP

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Wilson, Johnson, Beaumont, Williams, Dowie, Elstrup, Kennedy, Black (Preece 71).

Other Sub: Harvey.

DERBY: Shilton, Sage, Forsyth, Williams, Wright, Blades, McMinn, Saunders, Goddard, Hebbard, Micklewhite. Subs: Pickering and Gee.

• Attendance: 8919.

Wilson wanted to play

BRAVE Danny Wilson skipped Hatters to Saturday's win — having spent the entire previous night in hospital with his sick son.

Young Laurie Wilson was rushed to hospital on Friday afternoon with a raging temperature and suspected meningitis.

But after an anxious night and painful tests, the youngster was diag-



• Danny Wilson

nosed to be suffering from a virus.

Boss Ray Harford considered leaving the hard-working midfielder out — but Wilson typified the spirit that won him the skipper's job when he insisted on playing.

Wilson had a poor game — not surprisingly in the circumstances — and was the butt of criticism from the fans. "He was magnificent," said boss Ray Harford.

"The crowd were a bit hard on him but maybe if they'd known the reason they might have been a bit more sympathetic."

Ray's delight

BOSS Ray Harford took particular pleasure from beating a side he rates among the best in the First Division.

"We deserved the win for the effort we put in," said the manager.

"We were looking to go forward and create chances until we scored — then we were at our worst."

"When Dowie scored we began to look a bit nervous."

And he added: "Derby are a good side and are very hard to breakdown — they don't let in many goals."

"So I'm pleased with the result because they are a good side."

Harford was delighted with Dowie's goal, saying: "It's nice to see him score because he's such a genuine lad."

"He's got a chance

By SPORTS REPORTER

and he's taking it really well — he's getting better and better."

Harford enjoyed the performance of Marvin Johnson and admitted he'd played the youngster too many times last season.

Derby manager Arthur Cox locked his players in the dressing room and refused to comment.

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• My ball — Iain Dowie battles with Mark Wright.