

Come in number six!

"IT was either him or me." That was how manager Ray Harford summed up another injury which allowed the entrance of 19-year-old Julian James.

When Marvin Johnson failed to re-appear for the second half, James became Luton's sixth centre-back this season.

And six was not a lucky number for the Hatters, as a rampaging Southampton exposed the makeshift defence to hammer half a dozen goals past Alec Chamberlain.

Ironically in his programme notes, Saints' manager Chris Nicholl wrote: "There is no way

SOUTHAMPTON 6 LUTON 3 by SIMON OXLEY

we can restrict our natural instinct to go forward."

But as Harford had predicted, that style left gaps at the back for Luton to exploit.

And for some 70 minutes there was much hope for the travelling fans, the team trailing just 3-2, and the entrance of Roy Wegerle set to provide inspiration.

But before Wegerle could even get a touch, Southampton had scored two goals in a minute, Wallace grabbing his second with some style, and Shearer converting at the second attempt, after Cham-

berlain had beaten out his first shot.

Rideout then added his second, before Elstrup's fine left-foot strike provided some consolation.

Earlier Rideout had put Saints 1-0 up after just two minutes, before Dreyer equalised with a cracking volley, only for Le Tissier to make it 2-1 at half-time.

Black equalised, but Wallace regained the lead as the sides swapped goals – but the last 20 minutes was one way traffic.

It will be little consolation for Luton that they were the second

29/90



● James – the sixth centre-half this season.

highest scorers in Division One at the weekend.

"I am despondant, but there are mitigating circumstances," said Harford. "I thought we could score every time we went forward, but I was always worried



● Williams – ruled out with flu.

whether we could handle it at the back.

"When it came to defending we were always second best, but we needed our keeper to play well and he didn't.

"But it's not many times you score three away from home and get beaten."