

CROWN JULES!

Priceless ^{89/90} James goal

ROOKIE defender Julian James netted a priceless goal to mark his first full league appearance of the season.

The Tring-based youngster was involved in a bizarre own goal that gave Sheffield Wednesday the lead and threatened yet more away day misery for Hatters.

But 20 minutes into the second half, 19-year-old 'Jules' flung himself at a brilliant Steve Williams cross, and Hatters were back in the hunt for their first away win in exactly a year.

James — sensation-ally sent off on his debut for Hatters last term — seemed at ease in a new-look Luton defence which used Marvin Johnson as a sweeper.

He struggled away from Hillsborough nursing a dislocated finger

and a painful groin injury.

But after netting his first ever league goal, James said: "I was still in the box after a corner.

"Steve sent over a great cross and I just launched myself at the

**SHEFF WED 1
LUTON 1
BY MICHAEL
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THE LINE-UP

SHEFF WED: Pressman, Nilsson, King, Palmer, Shirliff, Pearson, Bennett (Whitton 89), Sheridan, Hirst, Atkinson, Worthington. Other sub: Harper. **LUTON:** Chamberlain, Breacker, Harvey, Wilson, Johnson (Cooke 50), Dreyer, Williams, James, Dowie, Elstrup, Preece. Other sub: Gray.

• Attendance: 16,339.



• That's a cracker — Julian James launches himself to net Hatters' equaliser.

ball — and it flew in!

"It was a nice feeling as it went in — much better than when I scored for the reserves earlier in the season!"

Boss Ray Harford was delighted with James' performance, saying: "All our youngsters did well but it was smashing for the kid to score."

Though James was more than happy with the equaliser, he was bemused by the goal which gave Sheffield Wednesday the lead.

Iain Dowie and Tim Breacker had both come close to putting Hatters in front before Wednesday's Phil King sped

clear after 16 minutes and crashed a shot onto the bar.

Hatters failed to clear the danger and after David Hirst had controlled the ball, James came flying in and whacked an attempted clearance straight at John Dreyer which flew over Alec Chamberlain from the edge of the box.

"It was one of those things," said James.

"I just tried to clear it and it ricocheted in off John — but it could have gone anywhere."

Dreyer needed extended treatment after being pole-axed by James' clearance but

resumed to complete another outstanding performance at centre-half.

Lars Elstrup came close four minutes after the interval but seconds later sweeper Johnson went down following a heavy challenge and was stretchered off in agony.

The word went out for Steve Williams to play just in front of the defence but he took up a position similar to Johnson's.

Williams' mistake almost cost Hatters the game as Wednesday threw everything forward and brought three outstanding saves out of Chamberlain.

Dalian Atkinson thundered through the off-side trap after 63 minutes but Chamberlain saved at the striker's feet and Dave Bennett was unable to capitalise on the loose ball.

Seconds later Hirst glanced Atkinson's cross towards goal but the keeper stuck out a leg to save instinctively.

And after James' moment of glory on 65 minutes, Chamberlain saved Bennett's shot from point-blank range.

But it was Hatters who had the last say — and Dowie really should have scored to seal a first league win since

December 10 last year.

Richard Harvey picked out the striker with a huge cross and though Dowie controlled in an instant, he sent his shot across the face of goal.