

# DONAGHY'S SET FOR A BATTLE!

89/90

**CULTURED** defender Mal Donaghy will go back to Old Trafford next month and fight for a first team place.

The 32-year-old — back at Kenilworth Road on a month's loan — still sees his future at Manchester United despite being out of favour with Alex Ferguson.

Neither Donaghy nor Luton boss Ray Harford will comment on the possibility of a permanent transfer.

But the defender, who cost United £650,000 14 months ago, said: "As far as I'm concerned this is just a straight month's deal. I have come to Luton for first team football.

## Battle

"Contrary to what you have read, I have not been to see Alex Ferguson or put in a transfer request, though it is fair to say things have not worked out for me at Old Trafford.

"I'm not happy with reserve team football but I'm prepared to go back and battle because that's what I'm paid to do."

Harford swapped keeper Les Sealey for Donaghy and is delight-

ed to have the defender back in the fold.

"As soon as I heard David Beaumont was going to be out for six weeks with a broken bone in his ankle, I just went in on my hands and knees and pleaded with Ferguson!

"I could not have got a better player than Mal. To get him for the games we've got coming is worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

## Mal to fight for United future

### ARSENAL 3 LUTON 2 BY MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

*ARSENAL: Lukic, Dixon, Winterburn, Thomas, O'Leary, Adams, Rocastle, Richardson, Smith (Merson 30), Groves (Jonsson 88), Marwood.*

*LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Harvey, Kennedy, Donaghy, Dreyer, Williams, (Gray 77), James, Dowie, Elstrup, Black (Cooke 45).*

• Attendance: 28,761.

"I was delighted when he walked into the dressing room — it was like an early Christmas present."

The return of Luton's favourite son to the heart of defence failed to inspire Hatters to their first away win since December 10 last year.

Harford's troops were in trouble after just 19 minutes when Donaghy was booked for a foul



• Wallop — Danish hot-shot Lars Elstrup fires home from the spot.

on David Rocastle 20 yards from goal. The twice-taken free kick was eventually worked out to Lee Dixon and his centre was nodded down by Brian Marwood for Alan Smith to fire in.

## Welcome

Smith limped off on the half hour and Hatters drew level within seconds.

Steve Williams — back on his old stamping ground and given a hero's welcome by both sets of fans — sent over a cleverly flighted free kick which was met by the flying Iain Dowie. John Lukic parried but Lars Elstrup was in the right place at the right time to bundle the ball over the line.

Arsenal sub Paul Merson gave the Gunners a half-time lead

when he headed home a Rocastle cross with his first touch of the game.

There was more misery for Hatters five minutes after the re-start when Marwood got behind the defence to head number three.

But if Arsenal thought they were in for an easy afternoon they reckoned without Hatters' fighting spirit and,

when Dowie was hauled down by Nigel Winterburn almost straight from the kick off, Elstrup coolly netted his second from the spot.

Hatters pegged Arsenal back and on another day might have had a second penalty when Dowie was impeded. But the Gunners finished strongly and Alec Chamberlain had to make a last-gasp save from Marwood.