

KID KURT KOPS DEBUT STUNNER

89/90

ROOKIE striker Kurt Nogan silenced the famous Liverpool Kop with a dream debut goal.

The 19-year-old hot-shot slammed Hatters into an incredible second-half lead and for a few fleeting moments it seemed the club's first away win for 13 months was going to come at Anfield of all places.

Nogan's super strike completed a remarkable comeback for Hatters who trailed to a brilliant John Barnes free kick at the break.

The youngster — who cracked a hatful of goals for the reserves and youths last term — told the Herald & Post: "It's a dream come true for me."

"There's no better place to make your debut and my parents were here to see it too."

"The goal was just one of those things — I was in the right position — and I hit the target."

Nogan's week began with disappointment as he was left out of the reserve side to face Oxford.

He went banging on new boss Jim Ryan's door in search of the reason — only to be told he was in line for a first team debut.

"Jim told me I would be starting at Liverpool

LIVERPOOL 2 LUTON 2 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

LIVERPOOL: Grobbelaar, Hysen, Venison, Nicol, Whelan, Hansen, Beardsley, Staunton (Burrows 45), Rush, Barnes, McMahon. Other sub: Molby.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, Harvey, Kennedy, Donaghy, Dreyer, Wilson, Nogan, Harford, Preece, Black. Subs: Dowie and James.

• Attendance: 35,312.

but I said I would not believe it until I was actually there at the kick off.

"I just didn't want to get my hopes up."

"I was really nervous at the start but after 20 minutes I'd got some confidence and I was fine."

Ryan took his troops to Anfield promising a new-look approach — and he was true to his word.

Hatters took on Liverpool at their own game — and though it would have been foolish to expect instant miracles — the team's neat

passing game was a joy to watch.

And the travelling Luton faithful gave Ryan's tactics the seal of approval with non-stop vocal support which drowned out a strangely silent Kop.

The home side threatened to overwhelm Hatters at the start, carving open the defence at will.

Keeper Alec Chamberlain pulled off a spectacular double save after only four minutes but Hatters weathered the storm and Mick Kennedy fired just wide from 20 yards.



• It's there — Kurt Nogan's effort flies past Bruce Grobbelaar.

Mick Harford was held down by Glenn Hysen after 21 minutes but referee Trelford Mills waved away penalty appeals.

Barnes blasted the ball straight into Richard Harvey's face from eight yards out on 27 minutes.

The England star opened the scoring on 32 minutes when Mills spotted a Mal Donaghy handball and Barnes curled a free kick round

the wall and past the despairing dive of Chamberlain.

The second half was a dull affair compared to the first — until just after the mid-way point.

Harvey swung the ball in and Harford's towering knock down was cleared by Barry Venison — straight into the path of Kingsley Black — who crashed the ball home from 25 yards without breaking his stride.

Two minutes later the impossible happened — Hatters were ahead.

Rejuvenated Black sped to the byline and cut the ball back for Nogan to slot coolly past Bruce Grobbelaar.

But the prospect of Hatters' first away win since December 10, 1988, lasted for just two minutes when Nicol met Barnes' cross and powered a header over Chamberlain.