



• Wallop — Kingsley Black makes sure of the points against Arsenal.

HOT-SHOT DOWIE GUNS 'EM DOWN

MISSFIRING champions Arsenal were gunned down by former missile engineer Iain Dowie.

The pop-Gunners didn't have the ammunition to cope with a late Luton cavalry for survival.

When Dowie shot Hatters into the lead just before the interval, "there was only one team in it," according to Arsenal boss George Graham.

Kingsley Black made it two after the re-start and this time there was no danger of Hatters throwing away the points like they had against Everton seven days earlier.

Even when skipper Danny Wilson limped off eight minutes from time — leaving Hatters with only 10 men — there was no danger of the Gunners fighting back.

Dowie said Hatters had worked long and hard at protecting a lead after the Everton debacle.

"It was a case of once bitten twice shy," said the striker.

"The breakthrough was no more than we deserved and after I'd netted, I looked up at the scoreboard and thought 'now hang on for three minutes'.

"At half-time we said let's not give anything away like we did against Everton.

"When we went 2-0 up we realised it was time to kill the game — so there were a few back passes to take the sting out of it."

LUTON 2 ARSENAL 0
By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

Dowie — scorer of two goals against Everton but anonymous at Nottingham Forest on Easter Monday — admits it's been tough taking the place of Mick Harford.

But he disputes claims that he's still finding his feet at the top flight less than 18 months after joining Luton from non-league Hendon.

He said: "I don't think I'm a rookie any more though there's still a long way to go.

"We've been playing with only one out-and-out striker which means I've had a lot on my shoulders — but that's what I'm paid for."

And he added: "There's a belief in the side now and Sheffield Wednesday losing at QPR has put it all back in the melting pot."

David Beaumont came in for his first full game since breaking his

ankle last November and helped the defence restrict Arsenal to a couple of hopeful first-half attempts.

Wilson came close to giving Luton the lead on 31 minutes when he launched himself at a David Preece cross and sent a header just over the bar.

Arsenal skipper Tony Adams hacked clear after 42 minutes as Wilson came haring into the box.

Rees centred from the throw in and as Nigel Winterburn chested down the ball, Dowie flew in and poked the ball past the outstretched hand of John Lukic.

Tim Breacker stole the show after the re-start.

The full-back denied Winterburn and Alan Smith with vital challenges before setting up the second goal.



• Nice one pal — Iain Dowie is mobbed after setting Hatters on the way.

Johnson five minutes later.

Arsenal had just one clear cut chance to salvage some respect when Smith shot from an angle but Alec Chamberlain pulled off a magnificent save at full stretch.

But the game ended on a sour note when Wilson was caught on the calf as he lifted an exquisite chip just over the keeper and had to be carried off by physio Dave Galley.

THE LINE-UP

LUTON: Chamberlain, Breacker, McDonough, Beaumont, James (Johnson 72), Dreyer, Wilson, Rees, Dowie, Preece, Black (Elstrup 62).

ARSENAL: Lukic, Dixon, Winterburn, Thomas, Bould, Adams, Davis, O'Leary (Rocastle 62), Smith, Merson (Hayes 62) Campbell.

• Referee: Allan Gunn.
• Attendance: 11,595.



• My ball — Black bursts past Kevin Campbell and Lee Dixon.

Calling superkids

THE Sports Council will again be running the Junior Superteams Competitions in Leighton Buzzard this year.

The event will take place in the early evenings of June 21 and 22.

There will be three age groups and a manager is required for each team.

The entry fee is £3 per team with a closing date for entries of May 31.

Entry forms can be obtained from Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre or Geoff Conquest on 0525 382238.