

CHAMBERLAIN'S ROKER CHOKER!

ALEC CHAMBERLAIN made a string of world class saves but walked away from Roker Park without any reward for his efforts.

The keeper was in superb form as he denied Sunderland hot-shot Marco Gabbiadini his first-ever Division One hat-trick.

But not for the first time this season, the keeper's super-show counted for nothing.

Chamberlain was powerless to prevent first-half goals by Gabbiadini and strike-partner Peter Davenport.

But while Sunderland were left cursing Chamberlain for preventing goal glut, Hatters had only their poor finishing to blame for their second successive defeat.

For though Sunderland were well worth their win, Hatters had enough chances to sneak at least a point from their longest trip of the season.

Boss Jim Ryan said: "Alec had a superb game but he's been like that all season for us."

The manager cited two main reason for Hatters' Roker demise.

"I think the more experienced players let us down and we defended a little to deeply. There was too much stuff happening in our box that could have been dealt with further up the field.

"I would imagine it was a very good game to watch and it is some consolation to us to have played our part in the game.

"However, as I have said before, I don't

SUND'LAND 2 LUTON 0 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

want to be known as a team who play well and lose.

"We've threatened to score goals and we should have picked up a couple."

Sunderland posted a warning of their intentions in the eighth minute when Ceri Hughes had to clear a looping Gary Owers header off the line from a corner.

Steve Williams went into the book for talking out of turn to the referee after blocking a Sunderland attempt at a quick free kick.

The Northerners took the lead in the 13th minute when skipper John Dreyer mis-kicked as he attempted



● Wallop — Kingsley Black fires in a fierce shot despite the attentions of Sunderland defender Anthony Smith. 90/91

SUNDERLAND: Norman, Kay, Smith, Bennett, Ball, Owers, Bracewell, Armstrong, Davenport, Gabbiadini, Hardyman. Subs: Cullen and Rush.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Johnson, Harvey, Williams, Beaumont, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Dowie, Hughes (McDonough 77), Black (Rees 65).

● Referee: W Burns.

● Attendance: 20,025.

to pass back to Chamberland and Gabbiadini moved in like lightning to whip a shot across the helpless keeper.

Chamberlain made a good save at the feet of Kevin Ball and Hat-

ters appeared to gain some inspiration.

Lars Elstrup saw a snap shot beaten away by Sunderland keeper Tony Norman and from the corner, Dreyer missed a chance to make up for his earlier

mistake when he volleyed wide from a good position.

The home side increased their lead on the half hour when Gabbiadini slipped a couple of challenges and found Davenport who lashed an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.

Elstrup was desperately unlucky when he lifted a shot over Norman only to see it bounce on top of the cross bar.

Davenport and

Gabbiadini linked up dangerously on the stroke of half-time but Chamberlain halted the danger when he dived at the feet of the latter.

The second-half began in dramatic fashion when Kingsley Black twice came close and Iain Dowie had an effort charged down.

Chamberlain beat away a spectacular Gabbiadini volley and after Norman had saved well from Black, Sunderland raced up field only to be halted

when Chamberlain saved at the feet of Davenport.

The impressive Gabbiadini saw another blockbuster pushed over the bar by Chamberlain.

Sunderland ended the stronger with Owers and Davenport coming within inches of increasing the score from long range.