

Shilton foils brave Luton

Derby 2 Luton 1

by John Turner

AN unstoppable drive from old boy Nigel Callaghan earned Derby their first home win of the season.

Callaghan, back at the Baseball Ground on loan from Aston Villa, made a little bit of history with his spectacular strike.

The goal secured Derby's 1,000 home victory in the League — achieved without flu victim Mick Harford, the hat-trick hero of Wednesday's 6-0 Rumbelow's Cup thrashing of Sunderland.

Luton found Peter Shilton, making his 150th appearance for Derby, in vintage form.

Shilton made two magnificent second half saves from busy midfielder David Preece flinging himself to his left to turn behind one goalbound shot then leaping elegantly to his right to hold on to another.

Preece had been the villain of the piece midway through the first half when he handled on the line to stop a Michael Forsyth drive.

Welsh international Dean Saunders stepped up to

score his seventh goal of the season from the spot.

Later Saunders sent a power drive crashing against the crossbar and striker Phil Gee, Harford's replacement, headed the rebound fractionally wide.

But from the goalkick, strikers Iain Dowie and Lars Elstrup linked up to provide Kingsley Black with a simple side footed opportunity to level the scores.

Luton, whose victory at the Baseball Ground on the final day of last season preserved their First Division status, fluffed the best chance of the first half.

Unmarked in the box Dowie and Ceri Hughes could not decide who was going to beat Shilton and delayed long enough to allow Derby to regroup and clear the danger.

● PETER Shilton is hoping to persuade Pele to play in his farewell England appearance, when an England XI managed by Graham Taylor will play Franz Beckenbauer's Italia 90 XI at White Hart Lane on December 18.

DERBY: Shilton, Sage, Cross, Williams, Wright, Forsyth, Micklewhite, Saunders, Gee, Ramage, Callaghan.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Johnson, Harvey, Williams, Beaumont, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Dowie (w'drn 70, sub Logan), Hughes (w'drn 76, sub McDonough), Black.

REFEREE: Mr. A.N. Buksh (London).