

Williams magic dazzles Hammers

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WHEN Steve Williams is not taking on the world he is still one of football's quicker thinkers.

Just when it looked as if West Ham were sneaking an improbable victory, his smartly-taken free-kick caught them on the hop.

Hammers were left flat-footed and Kingsley Black, alone at the far post, finished with time to spare.

But Williams has not lost

Luton 1 West Ham 1

by Paul Parish

his Jekyll and Hyde nature.

He was cautioned with Ian Bishop after an unseemly skirmish and then had a furious argument with his own skipper John Dreyer over how West Ham had taken an unlikely lead.

You could understand Luton's disbelief. West Ham

had done nothing until Stuart Slater unlocked his talent — and the Luton defence.

He finished with a fierce left-foot drive that goal-keeper Alec Chamberlain did well to palm out. But George Parris lashed home the rebound for his third goal in successive matches.

The second half offered little more in terms of skill or excitement before that Williams and Black trick.

But rather than lift Luton they seemed content with what they had got. And West Ham, self-confessed haters of this plastic surface, produced their best spell.

Martin Allen, Trevor Morley and substitute Frank McAvennie all had chances they should have converted.

In addition to Williams and Bishop there were bookings for Luton's Julian James and Darron McDon-

ough in a game that was never more than scrappy.

David Preece is doubtful for the replay after limping off with a hamstring injury three minutes from the end.

LUTON: Chamberlain; James, Harvey, Williams, McDonough, Dreyer, Elstrup. Preece (inj 87, sub Rees), Farrell (w'drn 56, sub Dowie), Pembroke, Black.

WEST HAM: Miklosko; Breacker, Parris, Gale, Bishop, Hughton, Keen (w'drn 79, sub McAvennie), Slater, Allen, Potts, Morley.

REFEREE: R Groves (Weston).