

Rams go quietly

Luton 2 Derby 0

90/91

DERBY ensured that Luton retained their First Division status for the second successive season — and they did it with the help of an own goal from their former striker, Mick Harford.

Luton sent Derby to their 20th league defeat of the season and it was not until the second half that relegated Rams looked remotely likely to take control of a tense game.

But if Alec Chamberlain had not produced a world class save in the fifth minute to brilliantly push Harford's fierce volley over the top, Derby could have been on their way to a rare victory and win bonus in their last game in the top flight.

It was Peter Shilton, however, who saw most of the action and he was called on after only four minutes to dive at Dave Beaumont's feet.

Luton, well on top, continued to waste several chances when Kingsley Black and Sean Farrell should have put them well ahead.

With four minutes left in the first-half David Preece directed a well flighted free-kick into Derby's packed defence.

As several players jumped to get a connection, Harford was the only one successful to glance his header passed Shilton.

In the 47th minute Luton secured their First Division place



● *Mick Harford*

when Black's cross was met by Danish International Lars Elstrup, who gave Shilton no chance with a dynamic header.

Derby came alive far too late as nervous Luton played for possession with Mark Wright hitting the bar with a header.