

Harford rewrites Luton's script

MICK HARFORD and Luton are back in business.

The former England striker celebrated his return to Kenilworth Road with two goals in the last five minutes to destroy newly-promoted Oldham.

Harford, re-signed from Derby for £325,000 last week, was the difference between two evenly matched teams.

His sheer presence stimulated David Pleat's young Luton side who were fast becoming the First Division's whipping boys.

"It was fantastic to score twice on my return," he said. "I don't know who wrote the script, but it was perfect."

Pleat said: "We looked more of a team today and now we have some hope. Harford is a good player and I think he can do as well in his second spell with Luton as his first."

Harford's deft touches and flicks opened up the visitors' defence in the first half, but it seemed his homecoming would end in frustration when Oldham's Ian Marshall scored with a free header in the 52nd minute.

Luton's marking left much to be desired. Marshall was standing unchallenged at the

Luton 2 Oldham 1

by Mark Demuth

far post as an Earl Barrett cross was flicked on by Brian Kilcline.

Harford owed a debt of thanks to 21-year-old substitute Kurt Nogan.

Harford pulled Luton level with a close-range shot after Nogan had split open Oldham's left flank with a surging run. And the Luton striker sparked wild celebrations with a spectacular winner in injury time.

He controlled a delicate chip from Nogan on his chest and scored with a marvellous overhead kick.

Angry Oldham manager Joe Royle threatened to make changes to his squad after watching his side's fourth successive away defeat in the First Division.

He said: "Too many of the players have Second Division mentality. The only way to change it is to get First Division players."

LUTON: Chamberlain, Jackson, Dreyer, McDonough (w'drn 60, sub Telfer), Rodger, Peake, Preece, Stein (w'drn 77, sub Nogan), Harford, Pembrige, Thompson.

OLDHAM: Hallworth, Halle, Fleming, Henry, Barrett, Kilcline, Adams, Marshall (w'drn 77, sub Ritchie), Sharp, Milligan, Holden.

REFEREE: P. Alcock (Redhill).