

Newman soothes nervous Norwich

ROB NEWMAN'S 41st-minute winner for Norwich against an injury-ravaged Luton side at least gave Carrow Road's lowest-ever First Division crowd the satisfaction of their first win in five League games.

But the brilliance of Luton goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain, the spirit of a Luton team with seven players aged 21 or under and Norwich's inability to kill off

Norwich 1 Luton 0

by Gerry Harrison

opponents made it a nervous finale.

Luton, without the injured Mick Harford, Philip Gray, David Preece and Brian Stein, and with only one goal and one point away from home, played with three at the back, filled mid-field and left Kurt Nogan

alone up front with occasional support from the hard-working Jason Rees.

Norwich, with Jeremy Goss enjoying his best game in midfield, dominated the game without ever controlling it.

At the end Norwich manager David Stringer said: "I am relieved and pleased to get a win because we've let so many points slip this season when we have been in good positions."

Luton manager David Pleat said: "We're not downhearted in defeat. Norwich played some fine football but our own game plan kept us in it. Our youngsters persevered and our debutants did well."

Evaded

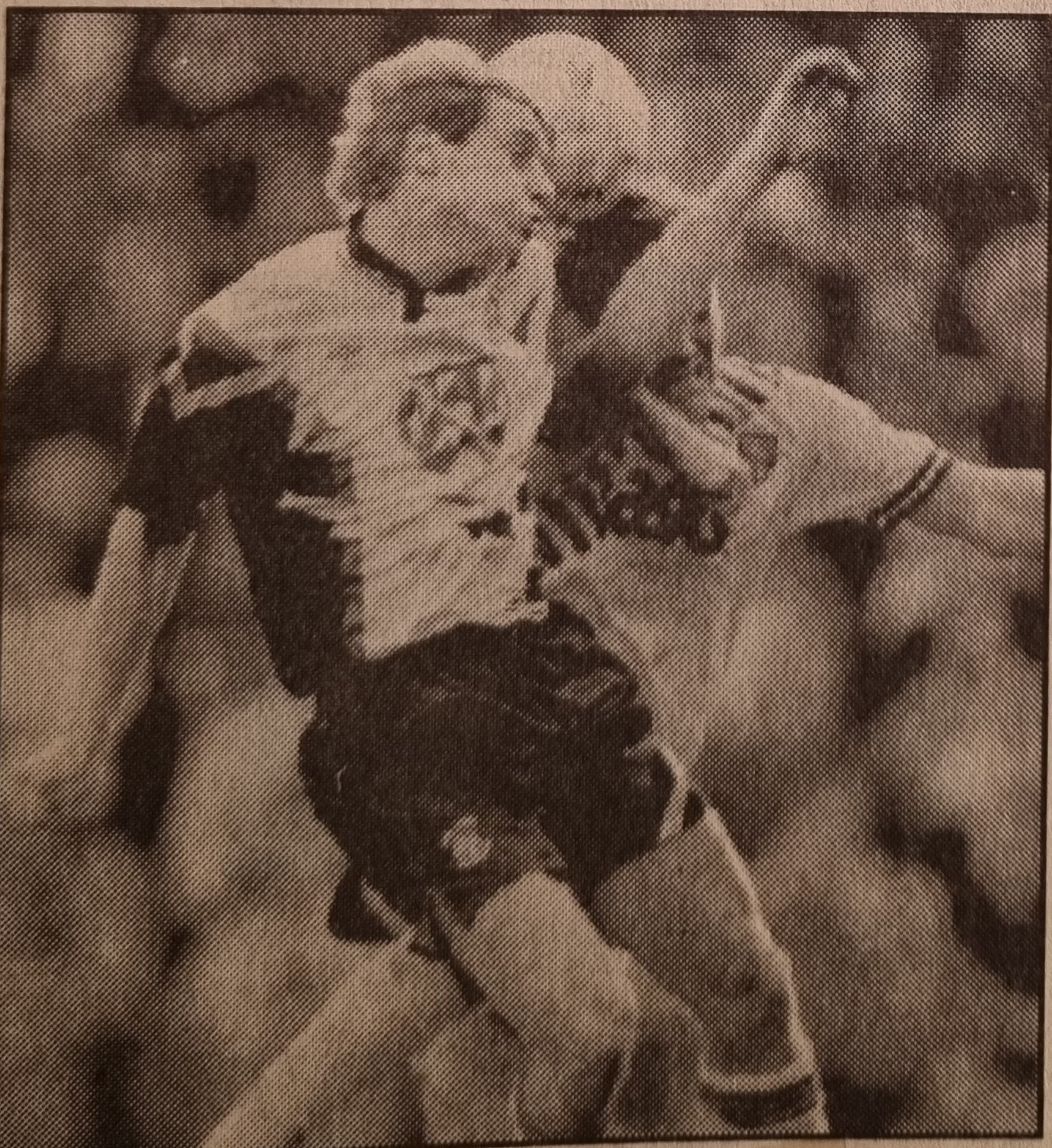
But it was no surprise when a through ball from David Phillips evaded John Dreyer for Robert Fleck to pull the ball back to Newman, who scored comfortably.

A series of fine saves from Chamberlain in the second half — from Fleck, Dale Gordon and substitute Darren Beckford in particular — not only kept Norwich at bay but put heart into Luton's fight for survival.

NORWICH: Gunn, Phillips, Bowen, Butterworth, Blades, Goss, Gordon, Fleck, Newman, Fox, Ullathorne (inj 54, sub Beckford).

LUTON: Chamberlain, Telfer, Dreyer, Hughes, Peake, Rodger (w'drn 58, sub Linton), Rees (w'drn 70, sub Harvey), James, Nogan, Pembridge, Oakes.

REFEREE: K. Hackett (Sheffield).



NORWICH scorer Rob Newman outjumps Graham Rodger