

SportsNews FA Cup picture special



● **MAGIC MOMENTS:** Three of the thrilling incidents at Kenilworth Road as seen by the Sky TV cameras, which beamed the game live throughout Europe. First, John Hartson's goal; then the astonishing clearance by Newcastle skipper Barry Venison to deny the teenager a second; finally, the killer blow struck by Scott Oakes. Pictures courtesy of Sky TV.

The night of the underdogs

Report by Brian Swain
Pictures: John Sherwood



● **YOUNG HERO:** John Hartson has scored his first-ever FA Cup goal, and David Preece and Jamie Campbell are first to congratulate him.

WE'RE OFF to Wales on Sunday... the Luton Town fans' army is mobilising again after the greatest night at Kenilworth Road for many years saw mighty Newcastle United dumped out of the FA Cup.

On paper, the Hatters didn't have a prayer. They were the little club run on a shoestring. Newcastle have spent millions on their team, to make it one of the very few to have a realistic chance of competing with Manchester United for the FA Premiership.

But it all counted for nothing as David Preece's boys made a mockery of the ferretbook, and turned on a marvellous team performance.

Eighteen-year-old John Hartson, playing only because Kerry Dixon was out through injury, fired the first-half goal, and Scott Oakes hammered the killer second after Newcastle tried to stage a revival.

Said happy Luton manager David Preece: "The key to it was to put on early pressure and get our crowd behind us.

"Then we knew we had to go for a second goal after going one up, and that we did as well.

"People are talking about underdogs. And of course I am pleased for young John Hartson, and for Scott Oakes, whose talent I have never doubted.

"But it was a team performance. I don't think we had an inferior performance by any player."

The fourth round replay result may also rescue team building plans. The cup run has brought in around £200,000 already, a bonus which was not on the profit and loss forecasts when the season started.

And with more to be made if the Town beat Second Division Cardiff on Sunday, it means that today Luton Town have the rare pleasure of not having to decide which player to sell next to balance the books.

For Newcastle, the shock hurt, but manager Kevin Keegan said: "Luton deserved to win, fair and square, and good luck to them.

"I hope they go all the way to the final at Wembley."

The biggest crowd at Kenilworth Road for two years had only one nation spell, early in the second half when Newcastle pounded a magnificent defence in the search for an equaliser.

And if they were unlucky when Peter Beardsley



● **ON ITS WAY:** John Hartson about to flick the ball round goalkeeper Mike Hooper before scoring the Town's first goal.

produced an incredible angled shot which hit a post, it only balanced up the bad luck Hartson had in the first half, when his leader, best goalkeeper Mike Hooper and was about to become his second goal until Magpies skipper Barry Venison executed one of the best goal-line clearances ever seen on the ground.

The match details

LUTON TOWN: Sommer; Linton, Peake, Dreyer, James; Teller, Harper, Preece, Campbell (Thorpe 82 mins); Oakes (Houghton 86 mins). Newcastle goalkeeper sub Petterson.

NEWCASTLE: Hooper; Watson, Venison, Hursey, Bensford; Lee, Clark, Elliott, Sellers; Cole, Beardsley. Subs not used: Robinson, Neilson and goalkeeper Smieck.

THE GOALS:

1-0, 16 mins: John Hartson, solo run round the goalkeeper and a calm deliberate shot into the empty net after his pace took him clear to collect a long pass by Trevor Peake;

2-0, 79 mins: Scott Oakes, after his shot was beaten out by Mike Hooper and Des Linton carefully knocked the rebound back into the path of Oakes.

OTHER STRIKES: Town seven saved and three wide; Newcastle four saved, six wide and whiplash angled shot by Peter Beardsley hit a post when it was 1-0. Corners: 13-6 to Newcastle.

REFEREE: Jim Parker, Preston: Excellent, especially when he turned down loud Geordie appeals for a penalty when Town defender Julian James seemed to handle.

BOOKED: John Hartson for a foul on Peter Beardsley; Barry Venison for a foul on Scott Oakes.

ATTENDANCE: 12,503, a few hundred short of capacity, but the highest at Kenilworth Road since the visit of Manchester United two years ago. Total attendance for the two Newcastle games: 44,715.

ENTERTAINMENT: Out of this world. One of the great nights at Kenilworth Road, with the Town full value for the win very few outside Luton expected them to get. Every man played to form and Newcastle had no complaints about the result.



● **THE KILLER:** Two Newcastle defenders are powerless to prevent Scott Oakes cracking in the second goal.