

Biggins makes an instant impression

94/95 (FNC)

Peter Lansley is over the moon after seeing a game that sported every cliché in the book

TWO strikers opening their goal-scoring accounts for new clubs at Kenilworth Road on Saturday left Luton Town and Southampton sharing a 1-1 draw in this exciting FA Cup tussle.

Pluck a cliché out of the football dictionary and this tie warranted it. The underdogs even saw Paul Telfer's 68th-minute penalty saved by Bruce Grobbelaar before Wayne Biggins equalised nine minutes from time.

Biggins, 33, signed on loan from Stoke, earned last year's semi-finalists a replay at The Dell when he finished off one of Dwight Marshall's penetrating sprints.

Neil Shipperley, 20, scored his first goal since signing for £1.2 million from Chelsea three games ago. His near-post flick from Neil Heaney's low left-wing centre should help him win over Southampton supporters, who were seldom over-appreciative of his predecessors, Iain Dowie and Kerry Dixon.

"I never had the chance to show the fans there what I could do," said Dixon, who played just 12 League games before being loaned to Luton. "I've had 40,000 Manchester United fans screaming at me so I'm too long in the tooth to worry about any hassle they want to give me."

Dixon is now likely to lock horns with his former Chelsea and Southampton colleague, Ken Monkou, in Wednesday week's replay. Monkou missed Saturday's game through suspension but agonised over every ball from the stand.

After Southampton's poor first-half performance, man-

ager Alan Ball came out of his dug-out ranting at his players to hasten to the dressing room. Monkou jested: "I think he was saying 'hurry up boys, your tea is going to get cold'."

Luton, winners at home just three times this season, have now needed four replays from their last six cup ties, while only Carlisle in the four divisions can boast more away victories. "I wanted a draw," said Luton's manager David Pleat wryly. "I want to play at Southampton. Our supporters know we are useless here."

Luton: Sommer; Telfer, Johnson, Peake, Thomas; Waddock, Preece; Oakes; Marshall, Biggins, Dixon (Marshall 88). **Subs:** Skelton, Davis (g). **Goal:** Biggins (81). **Booked:** Telfer.

Southampton: Grobbelaar; Kenna, Hall, Benali, Charlton (Hughes 75); Widdrington; Magilton, Maddison, Heaney; Le Tissier; Shipperley. **Subs:** Maskell, Beasant (g). **Goal:** Shipperley (54).

Referee: G. Ashby (Worcester)