



Kelvin Davis, the Luton goalkeeper, clings on to the ball in front of Watford's Mick Quinn

Picture: FRANK COPPI

Davis's save puts brakes on Watford

THE M1 derby, as frantic and congested as the motorway itself, left Watford stuck in the middle lane at Luton yesterday.

A penalty midway through the second half appeared to offer them a chance to join those clubs speeding towards the play-offs but Gary Porter's kick was saved by 18-year-old goalkeeper Kelvin Davis who, having just brought down substitute Peter Beadle, should arguably have been walking down the tunnel instead.

To Watford's displeasure, referee Kevin Breen allowed him to escape with a yellow

By Steve Tongue

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card on his home debut. The result leaves them eight points behind the fast lane to the Premiership, albeit with two games in hand.

Davis was standing in for Jürgen Sommer, who was on duty for the US against Uruguay, and with Kerry Dixon sold and Mitchell Thomas and Scott Oakes failing fitness tests, Luton were an odd mixture of wide-eyed youth and gnarled old pros.

Four of them had made no more than two previous

starts this season, including left back Richard Harvey. His fourth-minute run to the byeline and cross allowed Paul Telfer an initial nibble and then a more convincing bite. Goalkeeper Kevin Miller was as flat-footed as his defenders on that occasion but 15 minutes later he leapt to turn aside Harvey's ferocious 20-yarder.

Andy Hessenthaler's volley over the bar offered hope of better things for Watford and an equaliser materia-

lised in the 63rd minute when Porter put Kevin Phillips clear for his fifth goal in six games.

Immediately after the penalty Colin Foster had a header scraped off the line but if there were any neutrals in a crowd of only 7,984 — live television taking its toll again — there would probably agree that the result was a fair one.

Luton: Davis; James, Peake, M Johnson, Harvey; Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Matthews (Thorpe 79); Marshall, Taylor. **Subs:** Adcock, Margetson (g). **Booked:** Davis.

Watford: Miller; Lavin, Foster, Millen, Porter, Hessenthaler, R Johnson, Ramage, Payne; Quinn (Beadle 65), Phillips. **Subs:** Mooney, Digweed (g).

Referee: K Breen (Liverpool).

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