

HATTERS PICKED OFF BY CHERRIES

Bournemouth 2
Luton1 (aet) (agg 3-2)
BRIAN SWAIN reports

AFTER a pulsating cup-tie at Dean Court last night, Luton Town were bundled out of the Coca-Cola Cup at the first hurdle.

Having yielded a draw to Bournemouth at Kenilworth Road in the first leg, they were beaten in extra time last night.

Bournemouth, a division below the Hatters, pulled out all the stops in a high speed encounter and although Luton held them for 90 minutes Cherries skipper Mark MORRIS settled it with a thumping header from a corner seven minutes into extra time.

Luton had been forced to weather a storm of attacking in the first-half, came back strongly in the second, but then rarely showed any sign of producing a killer punch.

New skipper Steve Davis, a consistently strong man in defence spent most of the extra period trying to show his forwards the way to goal.

Luton battled well throughout but were glad of a sharp eyed referee. David Orr, for giving them, the chance of extra time.

Bournemouth's lively centre-forward Steve Jones netted what looked like an 82nd minute winner, when a linesman failed to signal him offside.

But the home fans' cheers turned to



PUT YOUR HAT ON HIM! Luton Town boss Terry Westley welcomes new Hatters signing Darren Patterson. The Northern Ireland international defender arrived at Kenilworth Road earlier this week from Crystal Palace for a bargain fee of £150,000.

● See this week's LUTON NEWS for the full story.

groans when Mr Orr, a civil engineer overruled the man with the flag.

Several hundred optimistic fans who made the trip from Luton to the South Coast were kept on tenderhooks in the first-half.

Bournemouth sounded an early warning when Jones, playing as a lone striker found space for a drive which whipped into the side netting in the first minute.

And when he went marauding again, Jurgen Sommer raced out of his goal, completely misjudged the bounce off a very hard pitch and was grateful to see Julian James head the ball to safety.

Bournemouth were playing it fast and furious and the overworked Hatters defence crumbled in the 12th minute.

Once more it was Jones, who scored at Kenilworth Road a week ago who embarrassed the Luton defence. Neil Young played in a long crossfield ball from the left and JONES ghosted in behind a static Luton defence to head the home side into the lead.

With a big crowd roaring them on the Cherries went for the kill but for all their frantic attacking they could not find the composure needed to turn pressure into goals. Slowly Luton began to get more possession.

Gary Waddock, replacing Ceri Hughes, who was dropped after being sent off at

Southend, combined well with David Oldfield to try to get the attack moving, but it was on 35 minutes before Luton managed their first shot at goal, with Dwight Marshall using his trickery and control beautifully but then spoiling it with an off-target shot.

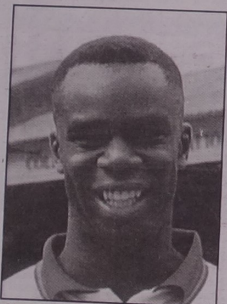
It was defender Marvin Johnson who finally gave Luton the lift they needed with a 43rd minute equaliser. Graham Alexander played in a diagonal free-kick from the right and while Bournemouth were watching for the threat down the middle, full-back JOHNSON ghosted in on the blind side and his diving header, Luton's first effort on target, powered into the net.

Bournemouth redoubled their efforts in the second-half and Luton came under increasing pressure. James and Alexander were booked in quick succession, both for fouls on Cherries' dangerman Jones.

BOURNEMOUTH: Andrews; Young, Morris, Mean, Beardsmore; Bailey, Holland, Pennock, Murray, Brissett, Jones, subs: Rawlinson, Victory, Town.

LUTON: Sommer; James, Davis, Johnson; Alexander, Waddock, Oldfield, Harvey; Marshall, Taylor, Guentchev, subs:- Matthews, Thorpe, Thomas.

Referee: David Orr (Iver, Bucks).



Marvin Johnson: Brought the Hatters level with his late first half leveller