

Dean heads Rams home

95/96

LUTON 1 DERBY 2

TWO goals by Dean Sturridge gave Derby their first win of the season against a Luton side which had plenty of the play but could not find a finishing touch after the boost of an early goal.

It looked good for Luton when Dwight Marshall fired them into the lead after only 31 seconds.

But Bulgarian international Bontcho Guentchev missed an open goal from six yards five minutes later and then Derby began to take over.

They held Luton to long-range efforts, and none caused any problems for Derby's stand-in keeper Russell Hoult.

Luton complained that their teenager Kelvin Davis was impeded in the build-up to the equaliser — a close-range gift for Sturridge after the Luton defence got into a tangle trying to clear a long throw.

But the goal was allowed, and Sturridge headed the winner after 63 minutes when he was left unmarked to meet a cross by Shane Nicholson.

The victory could have been more decisive — John Harkes shot against a post in the first half and substitute Paul Simpson hit the bar in the second.

Luton mounted a grandstand finish with skipper Steve Davis moving out of defence to try to help his attack.

But he had two shots blocked and then substitute Jamie Woodsford was put in the clear but Hoult made a good save.

Luton boss Terry Westley slipped away early to see a midfield player.

Westley has money to spend after the sale of goalkeeper Juergen Sommer to Queen's Park Rangers in midweek and said: "I'm going to Denmark to watch a man who is reportedly a play-maker, a good passer of the ball, and could be the link between defence and attack."