

HUNT SAVES LUCKY BAGGIES

LUTON.....1
ALBION.....2

Andy Hunt scored a dramatic late winner as Albion fought back to win in an action-packed finish at Kenilworth Road.

Albion had gone behind after 19 minutes when a mix-up between Daryl Burgess and Paul Mardon let in Richard Harvey.

But Albion, who had been disappointing for long periods, equalised in the 74th minute when Lee Ashcroft converted a Kevin Donovan cross.

Then goalkeeper Stuart Naylor saved a penalty from Steve Davis after Mardon had brought down Dwight Marshall in the area.

There was still no place in the Albion side for striker Hunt who was on the substitutes' bench for the third game running.

But, after passing a fitness test on a hamstring injury, Agnew was named in a line-up

unchanged from the one that beat Reading last Saturday, and manager Buckley kept faith with the formation that worked so well a week ago with five men in midfield and Taylor on his own up front.

The first booking of the game came after 16 minutes when Harvey's name was taken for a foul on Ashcroft.

The Luton man made amends for his lapse within three minutes when he put Luton into the lead after a dreadful defensive error.

Both Mardon and Burgess stood and watched as they both appeared to leave a long ball from Davis to the other.

In the end neither player cut it out and HARVEY was able to pounce to score from ten yards out.

Naylor came to Albion's rescue to stop



them falling further behind after 27 minutes.

Oldfield collected the ball on the right of the penalty area and fired in a powerful shot that the Albion keeper did superbly well to tip over the bar.

Cunnington tripped Oldfield from behind in the 30th minute to earn the game's second booking.

Little was going right for Albion at this stage and they had more problems when Burgess appeared to injure his ankle after making a big clearance from the edge of the area.

He went off for treatment but returned two minutes later.

Luton's skipper Davis was then shown the yellow card after showing dissent at the award of a free-kick to Albion.

In a bid to get back into the match Albion switched Donovan into a wider role with Ashcroft moving into the centre alongside Taylor as Buckley's side adopted a more conventional 4-4-2 formation.

Hughes looked set to become the fourth player to be booked for a wild kick on Cunningham which saw the Albion midfielder collapse clutching the base of his back.

Referee Barber called Hughes over but only

ARGUS MAN
OF MATCH
Naylor (7)

TEAM RATING
Fair

LUTON TOWN: Feuer; Peake, Johnson, Davis, Waddock, Hughes, Alexander, Marshall, Oldfield, Woodsford, Harvey. Subs: Guentchev, James, McLaren.

WEST BROM: Naylor; Burgess, Agnew, Coldicott, Mardon, Raven, Donovan, Gilbert, Taylor, Ashcroft, Cunningham. Subs: Hunt, Smith, Reece (GK).

Referee: Graham Barber (Warwick).

lectured him rather than producing another yellow card.

The fourth booking finally came in injury-time when referee Barber stopped the match to call over Raven and show him the yellow

card for a foul committed earlier.

The Albion defender was clearly mystified as to why he had been booked.

Half-time:
Luton.....1
Albion.....0
Luton made a half-time substitution when Peake, still suffering after his earlier collision with Feuer, was replaced by James.

Albion won an early corner which was flicked on by Taylor but well held by Feuer, the 6ft 7in American keeper on loan from West Ham.

Then Taylor and Ashcroft combined well but could not convert their effort into a clear-cut chance.

Buckley had seen enough by this time and decided to make a substitution, taking off Gilbert and bringing on Hunt who was involved in controversy straight away.

Donovan sent over a free-kick and Hunt was clearly held back by

his shirt as he attacked the ball.

But referee Barber mysteriously gave a free-kick to Luton.

Things went from bad to worse for Albion when Agnew had to be stretchered off with what looked like a knee injury following a challenge by Alexander.

Smith came on as a substitute and was able to slot into the left-back position straight away.

Albion looked to have been denied an equaliser in controversial fashion when Hunt, who had made a big impact since coming on, crossed to Coldicott whose first-time shot looked to have hit the back of the net.

The reaction of the Albion fans behind that goal suggested the ball had crossed the line, but somehow Feuer had managed to keep the ball out and the referee waved play on.

But Albion did level the score two minutes later when Donovan's cross found ASH-

CROFT who was on hand to head home his first goal of the season from close range.

In a frantic last 20 minutes Luton were presented with a golden chance to regain the lead when Mardon brought down Marshall from behind.

The referee immediately pointed to the spot but Naylor was again Albion's saviour when he dived to his right to keep out Davis's penalty-kick.

Albion dramatically took the lead with seven minutes to go.

Donovan raced clear down the right and, when Luton failed to get the ball clear, James could not do enough to stop HUNT forcing the ball over the line from close range.

The referee showed yellow cards to Luton keeper Feuer and Taylor after the pair squared up to each other in what was little more than a piece of harmless fun.