Feuer he's a jolly Luton Town 3 Walsall 1 good fellow! LENNIE Lawrence paid tribute to his goalkeeper as Luton continued their

charge up the table. It was only a pair of early wonder saves by Ian Feuer which kept Hatters in the match.

Tony Thorpe then lashed home a gifted 45th minute

opener to make a mockery of plucky Walsall's early dominance.

Andrew Fotiadis should have given Luton a priceless early lead after being put clean through by Graham Alexander – but from then on in it was a sea of red.

With seven minutes played Chris Marsh squared across Hatters' box for John Keister to smash a stunning firsttime drive.

But towering Feuer flung himself full stretch low to his right to somehow palm the ball to safety with a save which Lawrence described as 'in a different class.'

bar with a curling free-kick a minute man's land.

Report by PETE KENYON

later, as the Saddlers threatened to romp away with it.

A stunning display of one touch football set Mark Blake free down the left and his drive across the six-yard box was met by Kevin Wilson. Only a superb reflex save by Feuer kept the ball out.

And a minute later the dangerous Kyle Lightbourne missed a great chance - shooting wide from the edge John Hodge hit the angle of post and of the box with Feuer for once in no

But when the veteran Wilson limped off on the half hour to be replaced by ex-Hatter Ray Daniel, the men in red seemed to lose their grip.

And in the dying seconds Thorpe made the visitors pay the ultimate price - netting his fifth goal of the season from eight yards, courtesy of Ceri Hughes' pinpoint pass following an error from Lightbourne on the edge of his own area.

Paul Showler replaced Bontcho Guentchev just after the break - and promptly missed an open net sitter from barely a yard seconds after trotting into the action.

But on the hour the winger made amends by getting on the end of a well-rehearsed free-kick routine.

Graham Alexander chipped into the box for Davis to power a header across the face of goal.

Everyone missed it - to leave Showler with the simple task of stooping low to head into an open net at the far post.

And when Fotiadis scooped a 25yard volley over stranded Trevor Wood's head to make it 3-0 it looked the floodgates might open.

Hatters then lost their way - and Lightbourne made them pay almost immediately by lashing home a thunderous volley from 25 yards after capitalising on slack defending by Marvin Johnson.

But the effort turned out to be no more than a consolation as Hatters survived a late rally to stretch their unbeaten run to five.

After the match a delighted Lennie Lawrence conceded that Luton had been lucky to survive a first-half barrage.

"Walsall are certainly one of the best teams we have seen here, but the difference between the two teams was in the penalty box.

"We scored three goals from our six ventures into the penalty area and they scored only one.

"So many times in the past we have scored only once, despite creating a number of chances, but that's football, I suppose. But let's not get carried



Hatters' hero lan Feuer

away, this isn't a great division and there's still plenty more work to be done."

Of Fotiadis' first goal for the club, Lawrence said: "The boy signed a new contract this week and I'm pleased for him that he scored. Sometimes when you give a youngster a new contract they fall apart for five or six weeks."

