



Pictures: Joanna Cross

[L5-278]

SPOT-ON: Chris Coyne is fouled by Walsall's Neil Emblem and Kevin Nicholls strokes home the 89th minute penalty (inset).

Kev in the Nico time!

STEELY Luton skipper Kevin Nicholls has spoken of the pressure of his last-gasp spot-kick winner against Walsall on Tuesday.

Nico held his nerve to fire Hatters to their fourth consecutive win with an 89th minute penalty after Chris Coyne had been fouled by Neil Emblem.

But the 26-year-old midfielder admitted it was a tense moment, particularly after he had a penalty saved by Paul Henderson in Saturday's 1-0 win at Bradford.

Nicholls told The Herald&Post: "Yeah, I was a little bit nervous with it being so late in the game and being so important and also after having one saved at Bradford.

"But I wanted to take it and the goalkeeper ended up going the wrong way

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by **Andy MacKenzie**

anyway. The most important thing was that we got the three points."

The goal was Nicholls' ninth of the season in what has been a superb campaign for the Hatters captain so far.

As well as the goals, Nico has enjoyed a much-improved disciplinary record this term. Tuesday's win marked his 15th consecutive game without a booking and he now only needs to get through Saturday's trip to Port Vale to beat the five-caution suspension deadline.

Nicholls said: "I've changed a lot from how I was early in my Luton career

under Joe Kinnear when I wanted to fight the world and kick everyone.

"But the gaffer now is honest in what he wants from you and I'm being given the chance to express myself.

"I'm able to get on the ball and play it simple and set the play up.

"Most of the time I'm sat in front of the back four allowing Robbo to make runs forward and it's worked really well."

Nicholls added: "For ages we've been talking about winning the league within the dressing room, but now it really is within touching distance.

"We've got 12 cup finals left as Brian Stein keeps reminding us and the aim is to keep the unbeaten run going to the end of the season and go up as champions."

