

LEE-THAL FINISHING SINKS HATTERS

**Davis stroke
overshadows
big victory**

IPSWICH'S convincing win over Luton was overshadowed by news that 27-year-old Hatters defender Sol Davis had suffered a stroke on the team coach on the way to the match.

Luton manager Mike Newell said: "We kept quiet about it until after the match but it puts everything into perspective.

"It happened 25 minutes after leaving Luton and I am told that it might take six months before he makes a complete recovery.

"I am not going to use it as an excuse for our performance but we will never know what effect it had on the lads.

"He has made a bit of an improvement but he lost feeling in his left side and it has affected his speech.

Newell added: "We could have been beaten by even more. We weren't at the races today. Credit to Ipswich, they played some good stuff and took their chances."

Ipswich manager Jim Magilton wished Davis a speedy recovery.

He said: "I had no idea of what had happened before the game.

"For 45 minutes we were excellent and created lots of openings but we came in at half time only one up which is always precarious.

"Once we got away with a lucky break after the interval we were excellent again. If their disallowed goal had counted, it could have changed the game.

"It was a game of basics. We did the simple things very well. I think that is where we got our joy."

Ipswich5
Luton0

REPUBLIC of Ireland striker Alan Lee recorded a hat-trick as Ipswich cruised to their second successive Championship victory thanks to a 5-0 thumping of lacklustre Luton at Portman Road.

After a scrappy opening, Ipswich had the first chance to go ahead in the 10th minute.

Captain Jason de Vos rose highest to knock down Matthew Richards' corner but 18-year-old Billy Clarke fired over from 12-yards.

Clarke has been attracting the attention of Premiership clubs but has assured fans he will not be leaving Portman Road in the January transfer window, although a handsome offer could well prove too tempting for the board.

A good build-up involving Clarke and Richards saw Dan Harding get a sight of goal in the 16th minute, but he dragged his shot wide from 12-yards.

Ipswich went even closer three minutes later when Alex Bruce headed Fabian Wilnis' cross against the crossbar.

But from the resulting corner Sylvain Legwinski headed home for his second goal in two games.

The home side continued to enjoy the majority of possession and nearly doubled their advantage on the half-hour.

A flowing move saw the ball fall to Simon Walton 20-yards out and his drilled shot was beaten away for a corner by Luton goalkeeper Marlon Beresford.

Jim Magilton's side then struck the woodwork for the second time in the first half in the 32nd minute, Legwinski's shot hitting the inside of Beresford's post.

Clarke should have added number two in first half stoppage-time when he raced clear on goal but Beresford made a great save to deny the youngster, who then clipped the bar with the rebound.

Having failed to muster a single shot on target in the first half, Luton were denied an equaliser two minutes after the break when Rowan Vine was flagged for offside.

Clarke wasted another opportunity in the 54th minute when his clipped effort over Beresford was hacked away by Lewis Emanuel but the home side were celebrating again moments later.

Beresford thought he was fouled by Lee but Berkshire referee Iain Williamson waved play on

and Jaime Peters slotted home the loose ball for his first senior goal.

Ipswich moved further ahead in the

66th minute when Lee burst through and tucked home his third goal in as many games and the Galway-born striker added another one with 14 minutes left after Beresford had parried substitute Danny Haynes' effort.

Lee then completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot in the last minute to wrap up a five-star display by Town after Gary Roberts was fouled by Kevin Foley.



ALAN LEE celebrates his third goal with RICHARD NAYLOR