



TYLER MADE:
Luton keeper
Mark Tyler comes
to his side's
rescue again at
Rockingham Road
PICTURE: Mike Coppis

LUTON SAVED BY ACE TYLER

FOR the second week in a row Luton had goalkeeper Mark Tyler to thank for a point as Mark Cooper's Kettering were denied by a hat-trick of top stops.

Former Peterborough number one Tyler was once again the only Luton player given a rousing ovation by almost 2,000 travelling fans, as the Hatters hordes let their displeasure be known, despite stretching their unbeaten start to six matches.

Kettering came mightily close to ending it during a first half in which they took the game to Mick Harford's title favourites.

Tyler produced a wonder save to deny Damien Spencer from three yards in the 25th minute, then saved from the same man almost immediately before tipping a 36th-minute Andre Boucaud shot around the post.

Cooper said: "We should have won on the first half chances. I think Spencer has to score, but he's given the lad a chance to get it off the line.

"We've had pressure in the first

By Stuart Hammonds

half and they couldn't really get out. In the second half you expect them to have a spell, but we defended great."

It was former Hatter Ian Roper who led that resistance with Exodus Geohaghton turning in one of the less convincing displays of his Rockingham Road career.

Maybe the presence of Peterborough director of football Barry Fry - rumoured to be having a final check on the centre-half before making an offer ahead of Tuesday's deadline - had something to do with that.

It was one of Geohaghton's long throws, however, that created Spencer's first chance, with Roper flicking on, Frannie Green heading back across goal and Spencer nodding in - or so we thought.

Tyler suddenly appeared from nowhere to push the ball away, and seconds later he dived full length to gather another header from the former Cheltenham striker.

Luton had started brightly enough, with Andy Burgess - who was to join Harford's lengthy injury

list before half-time - curling a half-volley just wide with the outside of his left foot, and Adam Newton shooting straight at Lee Harper.

Tom Craddock had their best chance, but his 10-yard effort rolled wide after Harper had fluffed his attempted clearance.

Kevin Gallen then cracked one just over before referee Dave Coote waved away a huge appeal for a 76th-minute penalty for handball against Roper.

Harford said: "We had the majority of the game, especially in the second half and I thought we were let down by a couple of decisions which were blatant penalties in my opinion.

"They are at home so they are

MATCH STATS **KETTERING v LUTON**

7	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
2	SHOTS OFF TARGET	6
4	CORNERS	3
3	OFFSIDE	1
10	FOULS CONCEDED	18
2	YELLOW CARDS	2
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Lee Fowler (Kettering)
ATT: 3,266
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★ ★
REF RATING: Dave Coote 6/10

KETTERING: 4-3-2-1: Harper 7, Dempster 8, Geohaghton 6, Roper 8, Jennings 7, Boucaud 7, Fowler 9, Noubessle 7, Green 6, Thomas 7 (Mama 73, 5), Spencer 7, Seddon 80, 5). Subs not used: Wrack, Taylor, McPike

LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler 8, Keane 6, White 7, Pilkington 6, Murray 6, Newton 6 (Howells 90, 5), Jarvis 6, Nicholls 6, Burgess 5 (Blackett 36, 5), Gallen 5, Craddock 5 (Donnelly 73, 5). Subs not used: Gore, Basham

going to have a spell where they come at you with the long ball up to the big man, and people getting on to support to play for throw-ins and corners.

"That's the way they play. I don't want to play that way, that's up to them, but I thought we handled them."

That was harsh on Kettering, who at times played some lovely one-touch football in midfield, with the outstanding Lee Fowler showing his full range of passing.

Cooper, whose side have still to win at home, certainly felt so, adding: "I

keep reading that we are a really physical, direct team, but anyone who saw us play today will know that we are a bit more than that."