

HATTERS END GREENS' CUP DREAMS

A FAIRYTALE start for Hendon ended in a nightmare finish as the 10-man Greens were hammered 5-1 by Luton Town at Kenilworth Road.

The Isthmian League Premier high-flyers made the perfect start when Carl McCluskey glanced home Scott Cousins' free-kick on five minutes, but that lead lasted just three minutes.

Aaron O'Connor fired home from the spot after Dean Beckwith was fouled in the box and Town took the lead five minutes later when James Dance powered home a header from a lovely cross by Curtis Osano, before being stretchered off with a head injury.

Tommy Wright then scored with a close-range header after Osano's shot was spilled on 25 minutes as Town led 3-1 at the break.

And the Greens' hopes were finally killed off when Kevin Maclaren was sent off for a second booking on 63 minutes when he caught the delightful John Paul Kissock with a poor challenge.

11/12 (SAC)
LUTON TOWN 5
HENDON 1

By Mark Wood

The Hatters proceeded to ram home their advantage with two goals in the space of a minute.

Stuart Fleetwood rounded Hendon keeper Sean Thomas to make it 4-1 on 71 minutes before O'Connor seized on a mistake to fire home seconds later.

Town created plenty more chances but eventually had to settle for their 5-1 victory and passage into the first round proper.

Luton manager Gary Brabin said: "Obviously I'm delighted with that.

"There's always potential for a banana skin and I'm just delighted we've put in a good spirited performance and got a good victory."

"But I was disappointed with the goal we conceded, just a normal free-kick outside the box and the scorer has got free from his marker and put them 1-0 up."

STAR MAN: Aaron O'Connor (Luton)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★