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Hatters suffer first home defeat

TWO internationals gifted Watford a three-point Christmas present on Boxing Day.

Mal Donaghy and Peter Nicholas took the seasonal goodwill too far with errors that cost Luton their first home defeat.

And afterwards manager John Moore hardly minced words when condemning the pair.

"Part of the defeat was down to the internationals," he said.

"I don't expect a player like Donaghy to dribble out of his own area. Nobody in their right mind does that."

Moore added: "Then another international misses a penalty. We've let ourselves down for the first time at

**LUTON TOWN 0
WATFORD (2) 2**
Porter 5
Richardson 17
Crowd: 11,140

home this season."

The Hatters boss added Ricky McEvoy, David Oldfield, Emeka Nwajiobi and

Steve Foster to the 12 beaten 3-0 at Arsenal the week before.

McEvoy was named sub with Foster left out still suffering from flu.

Little went right for Luton, whose performance smacked of lethargy and inconsistency.

Watford, who greeted the

home fans with a "Happy Christmas" message, went ahead after just five minutes when Gary Porter touched in a low cross.

Mark Stein showed good skills to weave into the box only for Tony Coton to smother at his feet.

Then Kevin Richardson caught Northern Ireland's Donaghy half asleep to make it two on 17 minutes.

Les Sealey and John Barnes challenged for Worrell Sterling's cross which fell to Donaghy who lost possession trying to dribble out of danger.

Coton thwarted Donaghy as he tried to make amends with a free-kick header shortly before the break.

Town's second-half rhythm went out of time when they lost midfielder Darren McDonough with a broken nose.

He was stretchered off after colliding with Kenny Jackett in the 47th minute.

Even so Welsh international Nicholas had a great chance to put his side back in contention from the penalty spot. He blasted over though after Ashley Grimes was fouled — Luton's third penalty miss



● Arm wrestling — Mark Stein gets one in the eye.

of the season.

Town did little more to best the Hornets defence. The simple things like passing to feet went out of the window.

It was Watford's second win at Kenilworth Road in

eight league meetings. The crown was down almost 700 on last year, when 9,710 home fans watched in an 11,810 total.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, S. North, Donaghy, McDonough, B. Stein, Newell, M. Stein, Grimes. Sub: McEvoy (for McDonough, 50).
WATFORD: Coton, Bardsley, Rostron, Richardson, Sims, McClelland, Sterling, Barnes, Falco, Jackett, Porter. Sub: Gibbs.



● Oh ref — Ashley Grimes is felled for Luton's penalty.