The Dwight stuff by striker Marshall!

Big match facts

● TOWN: Sommer; James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas; Marshall, Waddock, Teifer, Oakes; Dixon (Thorpe 69 mins), Biggins. Unused subs Harvey and goalkeeper Davis.

● OLDHAM: Gerrard; Snodin, Graham, Redmond, Pointon; Halle, Henry (Holden 57 mins), Richardson, Brennan; Ritchie (McCarthy 62 mins), Banger. Sub goalkeeper Hallworth.

● THE GOALS: 1-0 32 seconds: Dwight Marshall, low drive after his pace put him clear to collect an astute through-ball by Wayne Biggins; 1-1, 72 mins: Rick Holden, shot through a crowded penalty area after a corner was not cleared; 2-1 80 mins: Marshall again, another expert finish from a flick-on by Biggins.

● OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town six saved, shot by Scott Oakes deflected onto and over the bar, and four wide; Oldham three saved, cross-shot by Lee Richardson hit the top of the bar, and seven wide.

Corners: 8-7 to Oldham.

● REFEREE: Paul Vanes, Warley, West Midlands.

Had a very good game.

● BOOKED: Juergen Sommer, for time-wasting, for the second time this season.

● ATTENDANCE: 6,908, lowest since the live TV game against Derby.

● ENTERTAINMENT: A bit of an oddity. The Town did not play particularly well, but the result, taking them up to tenth place in the league table, was very enjoyable. So was the sight of Marshall in full cry as he took his season's goals total to nine.

PERFECT START . . . With barely 33 seconds played, Dwight Marshall nets his eighth goal of the season.

MIXED EMOTIONS . . . Oldham Goalkeeper Paul Gerrard is on his knees as Kerry Dixon is the first to congratulate Dwight Marshall on his opener after 32 seconds which was set up by Wayne Biggins, pictured inset.

NUMBER ONE MAN . . . Dwight Marshall greets his second goal of the game.

IN A TALE of two strikers, two-goal Dwight Marshall shot down Oldham at Kenilworth Road to give Luton Town a welcome, lucky, fourth long win of the season.

With Bayne Biggins providing the ammo, the former Plymouth man who was given a chance in league soccer fired the opener in just under 33 seconds, then added a fine strike on winner that broke Oldham's hearts.

Between those two strikers the visitors had looked the better footballing side, but failed to create clean chances except for the luckless Nicky Banger, a former Saint who is becoming the biggest sinner for years with Oldham fans.

He could have had a hat-trick, but instead is still looking for his first goal for Oldham after 10 appearances following his £250,000 move from Southampton.

Marshall's clinical firepower rammed home a cruel message to the visitors, but one which had often hit the Town bulging the net is a lot more important than looking the better side.

For all their possession, against a Town side missing the midfield artistry of Ou vin Tim David Preece, Oldham created few clear openings, while their goalkeeper, Paul Gerrard, had to make more and better saves than Juergen Sommer.

LUTON TOWN 2 OLDHAM 1 (Half-time 1-0)

The Town defence was well-organised for the most part, with Oldham top Graeme Sharp enjoying of his inability to avoid offside. With the defences pushing up, it certainly looked like fell short of top-quality midfield men.

Manager David Pleat was not saying it would have been left out to make way for the return after suspension of Julian Dicks at right back, and we may face a rival offer for the Dell straight, he said in a replay.

Preece's illness made the decision to him on Saturday, and to compensate Town went through a baffling array of combinations.

They started with five at the back, and in 90 minutes Mr Teifer was put through a reality test — first wide on the right, then wide on the left, then in central midfield.

Scott Oakes had to go to wingback as well, he looked comfortable in defending so he and is happy to continue effort instead of pick-up-and-go-nics. "It doesn't matter who is scoring as long as they get it," he said.

Marshall's goals were his eighth and ninth in the Town shirt, providing the start of a "classical pattern," as Pleat accurate description, of a 19-year-old rapidly maturing right to a full training ob

wheelchair would be expected to take, but Banger had the ground and foil over the missed delight and hilarity of the Kenilworth Road end.

The Town stirred themselves early in the second half, with Gerrard saving well from Biggins, but Oldham made two substitutions with half an hour to go and took command.

Rick Holden, returning after a long injury, hit the equaliser they deserved a minute or 13 minutes later, and through a crowd of players after the Town failed to deal properly with a corner.

Tony Thorpe had been sent on in place of Kerry Dixon as the Town shuffled the pack again without showing signs of dealing a winning hand.

But with ten minutes to go, and most of the pitch to cover, he would be happy to accept with one point, Marshall popped up again to get on the end of a flick by Biggins and show Oldham — and especially Banger — that a manager who kicks goals and occasionally results that are scarcely deserved.

Other teams have done it to the Town often enough, so the pleasure was very genuine in see the Town have their day.

REPORTS BY BRIAN SWAIN PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN

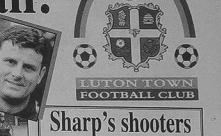
DWIGHT MARSHALL . . . Scored after 33 seconds in Saturday against Oldham

How they stand

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	29	11	3	1	33	10	3	5	6	16	21	50
Tranmere	29	12	3	1	37	19	2	5	7	9	17	49
Middlesbro	28	9	2	3	24	11	5	5	4	17	15	49
Wolves	29	9	3	2	27	12	5	3	6	17	19	45
Reading	29	5	6	3	15	11	8	2	5	19	16	47
Sheff Utd	29	9	4	2	24	11	4	2	6	27	21	45
Watford	29	7	5	2	19	11	4	5	6	14	17	44
Grimsby	29	8	4	2	25	14	2	4	8	6	17	28
Barnsley	29	7	3	4	21	14	2	5	7	8	10	22
Luton Town	**28**	**4**	**3**	**7**	**19**	**20**	**7**	**4**	**3**	**19**	**15**	**40**
Millwall	28	7	3	2	24	14	3	1	9	12	18	40
Derby Co	28	6	5	3	20	12	4	4	6	15	18	39
Oldham	29	7	5	2	23	13	3	5	6	10	21	38
Charlton	28	5	4	5	23	20	4	5	5	19	25	36
Southend	28	5	4	5	17	15	3	4	7	12	17	35
Stoke	27	6	4	4	21	13	3	4	6	7	20	35
West Brom	29	6	3	5	14	10	3	5	6	11	25	34
Portsmouth	29	4	5	5	16	17	4	4	7	14	24	35
Swindon	29	4	5	3	21	18	3	3	8	15	25	34
Port Vale	27	6	3	4	19	16	2	5	7	14	22	32
Sunderland	28	2	9	4	14	15	4	5	4	14	13	32
Bristol City	29	6	4	5	17	19	3	2	10	8	20	30
Burnley	29	5	3	5	19	19	2	4	9	9	19	25
Notts Co	29	4	4	6	16	17	2	2	11	14	25	24

NOT THIS TIME . . . Scott Oakes (right) fires in a first-half drive which looked like making it 2-0 . . . Paul Gerrard makes one of several outstanding saves to finger-tip the ball round the post (below).



Sharp's shooters are off target

OLDHAM went home wondering how they could have lost a game they felt they deserved to win. Manager Graeme Sharp said it was scandalous that his men had got nothing from the game, and David Pleat agreed Oldham were unlucky.

The latter: "They off hopes have been hit by a run of five league games without a win, and Sharp said: "We have played well in the last three, including the one, but have conceded some stupid goals."

Oldham's fans are beginning to wonder when Nicky Banger will break his duck. He is still awaiting his first goal after 10 appearances following a £250,000 transfer from Southampton, and might have had a hat-trick at Kenilworth Road. His worst miss was when he kicked a divot instead of the ball six yards from an unguarded net just before the interval.

Sharp agreed the strength was getting worrying but said he was not pinning for Banger as much as for his defence. "He feels he let the lads down, but we lost because we conceded two bad goals. It was all very disappointing.

Rick Holden, who got his equaliser, said: "I felt that went in we thoroughly deserved a point. I thought we would go on to win.

"We were the better team, and when the better team loses, what can you do? If you are the better team and keep losing, there's no future in that."

Town boss Pleat was delighted and relieved at the fourth home win of the season.

"Maybe we scored too early," he said. "Oldham are a strong side, and they came for us, and we certainly did not dominate the game.

"There have been times when we have dominated and failed to win, but today Oldham were doing well and deserved their goal, and they're unlucky to be going home empty-handed.

"I felt we created the cleaner chances, but Dwight Marshall's goals were a bonus."

Said Marshall: "We have played better but lost." And he expressed his disappointment of the service Wayne Biggins had provided for their goals.

"You don't expect to score so early in a game and it did not, I was glad. I was composed enough to take the chance. Wayne Biggins slides the ball through perfectly.

"After that we seemed to sit back and eventually Oldham got the goal they deserved, and I was thinking 'Oh no, here we go again.' But Tim Breaker came on with us, and we're all delighted with the result. We have played better games and lost."

Reserves pay the penalty

MISSING penalties is becoming a bad habit at Kenilworth Road. Richard Harvey shot wide from the spot in the Luton Town reserves' 2-1 Saturday loss at the Eve time this year to play Arsenal.

Tony Thorne seemed to have got the defender off the hook when he put the Town ahead six minutes into the second half, but Arsenal then replied with three goals. Two came from Paul Davis, who spent a month on loan at Luton in the autumn last year.

The reserves are at Barnet on Wednesday (7.30pm) in the semi-final of the Beds Premier Cup. A spectator will be UL-laid price for junior and senior citizens.

Luton Town's season at a glance

DATE... OPPONENTS... RESULT... TOWN SCORERS... ATTENDANCE... LEAGUE POSITION

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV I

August 1994

13 West Brom (H) 1-1 (Oakes) 8,640
20 Derby Co (A) 0-1 (0-0) 17,960
27 Southend (H) 2-2 (Harrison, Hughes) 5,918 17
30 Tranmere (A) 2-4 (Hughes, Harison) 5,480 20

September

7 Port Vale (A) 1-0 (Marshall) 8,541 15
10 Burnley (H) 0-1 6,911 18
17 Bolton (H) 0-3 5,764 20
17 Watford (A) 4-2 (Teifer 2, Dixon) 8,880 16

24 Millwall (A) 0-0 (0-0)

October

1 Bristol City (H) 0-1 6,633 20
8 Stoke City (A) 2-1 (Marshall, Preece) 11,712 18
15 Middlesboro (H) 5-1 (Marshall 2, Preece) 8,412 11

22 Sheffield Utd (A) 3-1 (James, Dixon, og) 13,317
29 Barnsley (H) 0-1 (0-0) 7,212 10

November

1 Grimsby Tn (H) 1-2 (Oakes) 5,839 12
5 Wolves (A) 3-2 (Preece, Marshall, Dixon) 26,749 8

12 Oldham Ath (H) 0-0 (0-0) 7,907 8
19 Portsmouth (H) 2-0 (Dixon, Preece) 8,218 8
26 Swindon (A) 2-1 (Dixon, Oakes) 9,655 5

December

3 Sheffield Utd (H) 3-6 (Harrison, Johnson, og) 8,153 6
11 Derby (H) 0-0 6,400 10
18 West Brom (A) 0-1 14,392 10
26 Reading (A) 0-0 11,623 12
27 Sunderland (H) 3-0 (Oakes 2, Harison) 8,953 12
31 Notts County (A) 1-0 (Teifer) 6,249 8

January 1995

2 Charlton Ath (H) 0-1 7,642 8
14 Barnsley (A) 1-0 (Dixon) 4,808 11

February

4 Oldham Ath (H) 2-1 (Marshall 2) 6,903 10
11 Grimsby (A)
18 Swindon (H)
21 Portsmouth (A)
25 Bristol City (A)

March

4 Millwall (H)
11 **Port Vale** (H) Preece 22
11 Southend (A) Johnson 1 pen
18 Tranmere (H) James
18 Bolton (A) Johnson 1 pen
25 Watford (H) Preece 2, Marshall 2, Oakes, Hughes, Biggins
25 Millwall (A) Teifer, Marshall, Preece
1 Derby Co (A) Marshall
8 Stoke City (H) Hughes, Biggins
15 Wolves (H) Johnson
22 Charlton Ath (A) Marshall

April

8 Stoke City (H) Marshall
15 **Wolves** (A) TO BE REARRANGED

COCA-COLA CUP (First Round)

August 1994

16 Fulham (H) 1-1 (Oakes) 3,287
23 Fulham (A) 1-1 (Marshall) 8,134

Luton lost on penalties.

FA CUP (Third Round)

January 1995

7 Bristol Rov (H) 1-1 (Hartson) 7,571
18 Bristol Rov (A) 1-0 (Marshall) 8,218 Replay

(Fourth Round)

28 Southampton (H) 1 (Biggins) 9,938

February

8 Southampton (A) Replay

Who's who

APPEARANCES... GOALS

League appearances (as sub in brackets)

Sommer 28
James 28
Peake 28
Johnson 28
Teifer 28
Preece 25
Marshall 22 (5)
Thomas 22
Waddock 22
Oakes 21 (6)
Harrison 18 (5)
Hughes 8 (1)
Greene 6
Allen 6
Linton 3 (2)
Shelton 3 (2)
Houghton 2
Harvey 2
Biggins 1
Allcock 1 (2)
Davis 1

Woodford (1)
Davison (1)

League goals

Marshall 9
Oakes 6
Dixon 5
Harrison 5
Preece 3
Johnson 3
Teifer 2
Hughes 2
Biggins 2
Thomas 1
Harvey 1
Hughes 1
Greene 1

Assists

Biggins 7
Marshall 3
Preece 2
Harrison 4
Johnson 3
Oakes 2
Williams (1)
Davison (1)
Adcock (1)

Cup goals

Marshall 2
Oakes 1
Johnson 1
Biggins 1

CUP APPEARANCES... GOALS

Cup appearances

Sommer 5
Peake 5
Johnson 5
Teifer 5
Preece 5
Oakes 4 (1)
Marshall 4 (1)
Dixon 4
James 4
Thomas 3
Harvey 3
Hughes 2
Greene 1

Linton (1)
Biggins 1
Harrison 1
Houghton 1
Cherrett 1
Williams (1)
Davison (1)
Adcock (1)

Cup goals

Marshall 2
Oakes 1
Johnson 1
Biggins 1