



Luton Notts County

Report by John Oliver

2 (1)
0 (0)



MATCH facts

Luton	2	(1)
Telfer(3), Oakes (pen)		
Notts County	0	(0)



MoM: David Preece.

Bookings: Luton: 0. Notts County: Murphy 34, Johnson 90.

Free kicks: Luton: 14. Notts County: 8

Corners: Luton: 6 Notts County: 10.

Shots on target: Luton: 7. Notts County: 4

Attendance: 6,428

LUTON TOWN: Davis; James sub Linton (76), Johnson (Marvin), Waddock, Harvey, Peake, Telfer, Oakes, Taylor, Preece, Marshall sub Matthews (72). Sub not used: Sommer (gk).

NOTTS COUNTY: Cherry; Short sub Galloway (78), Mills, Turner, Murphy, Hoyle, Simpson, White sub Devlin (70), Russell, Nichol, Johnson (Michael). Sub not used: Reece (gk).

REFEREE: M Pierce (Portsmouth).

Golden boys Paul Telfer and Scott Oakes put another nail in Notts County's relegation coffin in a scrappy affair at Kenilworth Road yesterday.

Telfer struck in the third minute – his fourth goal in three matches – and Oakes wrapped it up with a penalty after Dwight Marshall had been bundled over by Colin Hoyle in the 68th minute.

An unchanged Luton team went in front after only three minutes and, inevitably, it was Telfer who scored the goal.

Preece sent Harvey away with a delightful pass and the fullback's left-wing cross was coolly converted by Telfer, his fourth goal in three games.

Luton continued to have the best of it but the hard-working Taylor was spoken to by the referee after a foul on County keeper Cherry.

Two minutes later, Taylor had Cherry stretching to reach his powerful header and the £200,000 striker's tenacity created another chance for Luton but this time Telfer was too slow to react.

Luton should have scored again in the 30th minute when Preece and Taylor combined to send Marshall clear but the out-of-touch striker finished weakly.

The game came back to life after a dull period when Oakes rapped the woodwork with a scorching 25-yard drive in the 37th minute before County raced to the other end to test Davis for the first time.

Two minutes later, Marshall also hit the woodwork but was ruled offside and determined County almost made Luton pay for their missed chances when Michael Johnson forced a flying save from Davis.

Marshall got Luton moving again after a scrappy start to the second half and his cross saw Telfer head into Cherry's hands.

With man-of-the-match Preece prompting in midfield, the ever-alert Taylor put County under more pressure before Nicol broke away to test Davis.

After the thriller with Wolves on Tuesday, this was a tame affair with Luton unable to find the touch which had given Graham Taylor's title-chasers such a torrid time.

Oakes changed all that after missing a golden opportunity to score when Taylor's dummy put him clean through.

A minute later Oakes tried his luck again but this time his shot was deflected for a corner. Then the midfield ace did make it 2-0 in the 68th minute, scoring from a penalty after Marshall had been bundled over by Hoyle.

Oakes breathed a huge sigh of relief when the ball went in, Hatters having missed four penalties this season.

Oakes should have scored again eight minutes from time but allowed Cherry to get a boot to his tame shot. Then he headed over when well placed.