

Sport 3

Big match facts

TOWN: Feuer, Alexander, Patterson, Davis, Thomas, Waddock, Hughes (Linton 78 mins), Harvey, Thorpe; Oldfield (Marshall 78 mins), Taylor (Riseth 73 mins).

LEICESTER: Poole; Rolling, Hill, Walsh; Grayson, Lewis, Parker, Corica (Robins 51), Lewis (Phillips 66 mins); Heskey, Roberts. Unused sub Josielim.

GOALS: 0-1 55 mins: Tony Thorpe, cool finishing after rounding the goal-keeper from a diagonal ball to the inside left position by Graham Alexander, 1-1 60 mins: Iwan Roberts, clinical finish on the only occasion he escaped from Steve Davis and Darren Patterson.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town five saved, three wide and one netted by David Oldfield but disallowed for a foul in the build-up; Leicester six saved and five wide. Corners: 6-6.

REFEREE: Graham Barber, Warwick. Not bad, but played plenty of stoppage time.

BOOKED: Mitchell Thomas and Steve Davis, both for fouls on Emile Heskey.

ATTENDANCE: 14,821, second highest to see the Town this season.

ENTERTAINMENT: Very good for Town fans, with the defence still very tight and well organised, but with the bonus of decent passing football played on the break, with Leicester lucky not to be beaten in the last ten minutes.

Luton Town's season at a glance....

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

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE									
1995									
Town Scores:									
AUGUST									
13 Norwich	H	1-3	(Guentchev pen)	7,848	-	-	-	-	-
19 Southend	A	1-0	(Thorpe)	4,630	-	-	-	-	-
26 Leicester	A	1-1	(Hughes)	7,612	-	-	-	-	-
29 Grimsby	A	0-0	-	4,289	-	-	-	-	-
SEPTEMBER									
2 Derby	H	1-2	(Marshall)	6,427	-	-	-	-	-
9 Reading	A	1-3	(Marshall)	8,550	-	-	-	-	-
13 Millwall	A	0-2	-	7,076	-	-	-	-	-
16 Sunderland	H	0-2	-	6,955	-	-	-	-	-
23 Wolves	A	0-2	-	23,659	-	-	-	-	-
30 Portsmouth	H	3-1	(Marshall, Davis, Guentchev pen)	7,795	-	-	-	-	-
OCTOBER									
7 Tranmere	A	0-1	-	6,880	-	-	-	-	-
14 West Brom	H	1-2	(Harvey)	8,042	-	-	-	-	-
22 Ipswich	A	1-0	(Oldfield)	9,123	-	-	-	-	-
29 Charlton	H	0-1	-	6,270	-	-	-	-	-
NOVEMBER									
4 Stoke	A	0-5	-	9,382	-	-	-	-	-
11 Oldham	H	1-1	(Douglas)	6,047	-	-	-	-	-
18 Birmingham	H	0-0	-	7,920	-	-	-	-	-
21 Watford	A	1-1	(Davis)	10,042	-	-	-	-	-
28 Barnsley	A	0-1	-	6,437	-	-	-	-	-
DECEMBER									
2 Tranmere	H	3-2	(Marshall 2, McLaren)	8,025	-	-	-	-	-
9 Wolves	H	2-3	(Oakes, Marshall)	6,997	-	-	-	-	-
16 Portsmouth	A	0-2	-	7,012	-	-	-	-	-
23 Queensferry	H	2-2	(Marshall, Oldfield)	7,076	-	-	-	-	-
26 C. Palace	A	Postponed - frost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 Port Vale	A	Postponed - frost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1996									
JANUARY									
1 Sheffield Utd	H	Postponed - frost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Southend	H	3-1	(Guentchev, Oakes 2)	6,566	-	-	-	-	-
20 Norwich	A	1-0	(Guentchev pen)	12,474	-	-	-	-	-
31 Sheffield Utd	H	1-1	(Guentchev)	6,995	-	-	-	-	-
FEBRUARY									
3 Leicester	A	1-1	(Thorpe)	14,821	-	-	-	-	-
10 Grimsby	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Millwall	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Derby	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Sunderland	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Reading	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARCH									
3 C. Palace	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Huddersfield	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 Port Vale	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Sheffield Utd	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 Ipswich	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
APRIL									
2 West Brom	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Charlton	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Stoke	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Birmingham	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Watford	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Barnsley	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAY									
4 Oldham	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
To be arranged, Port Vale A									

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Determined

REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN

LEICESTER CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 1
(Half-time: 0-0)

Lawrence was philosophical after seeing the three subs, Des Linton, Vidar Riseth and Dwight Marshall, all go close to late winners. At Norwich, where the Town won by a single goal, they had nicked three points without playing particularly well in attack. At Filbert Street they had looked menacing on the break, but netted only one point. "These things balance out," he said.

With Julian James completing his suspension, three more changes had to be made. Scott Oakes, Marvin Johnson and Darren Corica were ruled out by injuries caused on the midway win over Sheffield Wednesday. Ceri Hughes, David Oldfield and Robert Harvey were recalled, and with Darren the changes had no effect at all on the general pattern demanded by Lawrence as he sought Steve Davis and Patterson were allowed as promotion-chasing Leicester were allowed to have plenty of possession, but not allowed to do much with it.

The only dodgy spell was in the opening minutes, when Neil Lewis and Darren Corica wasted opportunities with 20-yard drives straight at the keeper.

From then on the Town settled down, and Leicester's confidence ebbed as they huffed and puffed and got nowhere.

The Town netted in the seventh minute, when Davis went upfield for a corner by Harvey and powered in a header which was deflected into the bar. Oldfield, who Leicester last season applied the finishing touch, but the goal was rubbed out for a push by Tony Thorpe, despite his best form for some time since Lawrence gave him a specific role, which was a first-half yarder, which Kevin Poole to drive at full stretch to his right to the shot around the post.

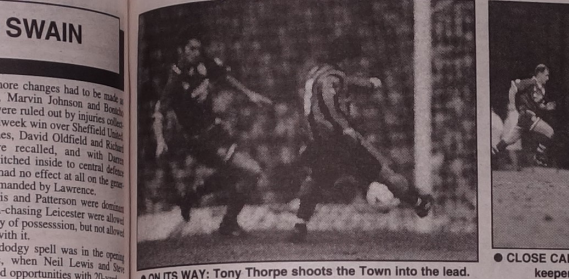
Thorpe, despite his best form for some time since Lawrence gave him a specific role, which was a first-half yarder, which Kevin Poole to drive at full stretch to his right to the shot around the post.

Hornets hit rock bottom

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE									
GOALS: Marshall 7, Guentchev 5 (3 pens), Oakes 3, Thorpe 5, Davis and Oldfield 2; Hughes, Harvey, Douglas and McLaren 1.									
ASSISTS: Thorpe 5; Alexander 4; Oakes, Marshall, Guentchev and Harvey 2; Taylor, M Johnson, G Johnson, S Davis, Vilstrup, Feuer and McLaren 1.									
APPEARANCES, as sub in brackets: Harvey 24 (3); M Johnson 24; S Davis 23; Marshall 21 (1); Alexander 20 (1); Feuer 20; Hughes 17 (1); Waddock 15 (4); Oakes 15; Peake 14 (3); Oldfield 12 (6); James 12 (3); Guentchev 11 (7); Taylor 11 (4); McLaren 9; Thorpe 7 (7); Patterson and Thomas 6 (2); Vilstrup 6; Linton and Riseth 5 (2); G Johnson 5 (1); K Davis 5; Sommer 2; Douglas 1 (3); Woodsford 1 (2). Number of players used: 26 (27 last season).									
COCA COLA CUP									
GOALS: Marshall 1, Marvin Johnson 1.									
ASSISTS: Steve Davis 1, Alexander 1.									
APPEARANCES (subs in brackets): Sommer, Marvin Johnson, Steve Davis, Oldfield, Alexander, Marshall, Taylor, Guentchev, Harvey 2 each; Thorpe (2), O Thomas (1), J James, Hughes and Waddock 1 each; Matthews (1).									
FA CUP									
GOAL: Marshall.									
ASSIST: Guentchev.									
APPEARANCES: One each by Feuer, Patterson, James, Marvin Johnson, Thomas, Waddock, Guentchev, Oakes, Oldfield, McLaren and Marshall. One as sub by Alexander and Thorpe.									
ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP									
GOALS: Marshall 2, Guentchev 2 penalties, Oakes 1, Taylor 1, Thorpe 1.									
ASSISTS: Taylor 2; Hughes, Linton, Marshall and Harvey one each.									
APPEARANCES: Four each by K Davis, S Davis and Harvey; three each by Oakes, Linton and McLaren; Marshall and Guentchev (1) 2; Alexander and Waddock (1) 1; one each by Skelton, Evers, Hughes, Riseth, Taylor, Thomas and Upson; Woodsford (2).									

Sport 4

Reports and gossip from Town



ON ITS WAY: Tony Thorpe shoots the Town into the lead.

But even that boost was not enough to enable Leicester to go on and finish the job, as they would have done in the early season days when the Town invariably struggled to hold on to a lead.

Lawrence used all three subs as the pattern evolved into Town dominating they were as good as in defence, and better by the minute as they swept the ball around accurately on counter-attacks.

Linton missed the best chance, two minutes after he was sent on, shooting wide after his run took him clear to collect Thorpe's pass.

Thorpe, despite his best form for some time since Lawrence gave him a specific role, which was a first-half yarder, which Kevin Poole to drive at full stretch to his right to the shot around the post.

NHC Sunday League

PREMIER DIVISION									
Horton	P	12	10	2	0	3	13	3	13
J. Joseph	P	11	7	4	0	5	12	18	18
East Hill	P	14	6	3	3	24	17	14	6
Luton Old	P	11	7	4	0	27	10	16	3
St. Mary's	P	12	4	4	0	27	14	13	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	6	5	0	1	25	4	10	2
St. Mary's	P	14	3	1	10	15	48	6	4
St. Mary's	P	12	1	2	10	20	48	6	4
St. Mary's	P	12	1	10	15	48	6	4	6
DIVISION ONE									
Colts Res.	P	12	10	2	0	3	13	3	13
Houghton Town	P	10	7	0	2	3	10	14	6
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
St. Mary's	P	14	3	6	1	21	11	14	3
DIVISION TWO									
Luton Old	P	12	10	2	0	3	13	3	13
Borough Arms	P	11	0	1	4	12	21	1	1
Widmore	P	11	0	1	4	12	21	1	1
Leavesley Vale	P	10	3	2	3	29	12	1	1
Leavesley Vale	P	10	3	2	3	29	12	1	1
Leavesley Vale	P	10	3	2	3	29	12	1	1
Leavesley Vale	P	10	3	2	3	29	12	1	1
Leavesley Vale	P	10	3	2	3	29	12	1	1
Leavesley Vale	P	10	3	2	3	29	12	1	1
Leavesley Vale	P	10	3	2	3	29	12	1	1
DIVISION THREE									
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1
Magnum Res.	P	15	10	1	4	44	30	21	1

James is bidding to win his place back



● CLOSE CALL: Des Linton slides his shot wide of the goal-keeper... but it drifted wide of the far post too.

James is available again for Saturday's match, after serving a two-game suspension.

Yesterday Johnson and Guentchev, with hamstring injuries, and Oakes, with a back muscle problem, were still under treatment.

Said the manager: "Johnson and Oakes are still trying hard to try to be fit for the weekend, and it would be nice to have them available."

"Guentchev is making very good progress, and looks a 50/50 bet to make it. But even they are all fit, that's not to say they will be automatic choices against Grimsby."

"Those who came in at Leicester did well. Ceri Hughes played his first league game for six weeks, and he got us going after we struggled a bit in the first ten or fifteen minutes."

"Graham Alexander is probably not really a right back, but he took on the job and did it well."

"And the three subs made a point as well. It must be a 100-1 shot to put on all three and then see them all have good chances."

Linton missed the best, shooting wide of the far post with only the goalkeeper to beat, but the manager said: "I am not complaining about that. He had only just gone on, and it was well to get into the right place to have a strike at goal."

"Vidar Riseth made a good contact, and was unlucky not to score, and the same goes for Dwight Marshall's shot that was cleared off the line. But these are good signs. It was the first time since I have been here that we could say we were a bit unlucky not to get a second goal. And things like that tend to even themselves out."

Tom Thorpe, who had his best game of the season against his former club, picked up a slight groin and only a couple of hundred fans were in the away section, so it looks like Luton supporters are trickling back to the club. The referee, David Orr, Iver-100 book-happy.

BOOKED: Scott Oakes, Gary Waddock, Mitchell Thomas and Ceri Hughes, and United's Roger O'Brien and Mark Patterson, all for fouls.

ATTENDANCE: 6,995, 400 more than for the previous home game. It was a very cold night, and only a couple of hundred fans were in the away section, so it looks like Luton supporters are trickling back to the club. The referee, David Orr, Iver-100 book-happy.

THE GOAL: Bontcho Guentchev stunning curling free kick from 25 yards in the 39th minute.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town two saved and four wide; United two saved and two wide.

CORNER: 10-0 to United.

REFEREE: David Orr, Iver-100 book-happy.

BOOKED: Scott Oakes, Gary Waddock, Mitchell Thomas and Ceri Hughes, and United's Roger O'Brien and Mark Patterson, all for fouls.

ATTENDANCE: 6,995, 400 more than for the previous home game. It was a very cold night, and only a couple of hundred fans were in the away section, so it looks like Luton supporters are trickling back to the club. The referee, David Orr, Iver-100 book-happy.

The winning goal was the moment of inspiration among Luton, tripping Tony Thorpe ten yards outside the area, and Guentchev bent the free kick