

DAVE FLETT REPORTS: THE HATTERS ARE OFF THE MARK WITH A WELL-

Super sub Stu flies



● SKY'S THE LIMIT: Simon Davies helps young super sub Stuart Douglas celebrate his winning goal.



● TWO STEPS TO VICTORY: Tony Thorpe's goal bound shot is well-saved by Southend keeper Simon Royce (left), but Stuart Douglas side-

TEENAGE substitute Stuart Douglas grabbed his moment of glory under the intense spotlight of Sky's television cameras. The young striker pounced for a 76th minute winner to seal a deserved 1-0 victory for the Hatters over Alvin Martin's overwhelmed Southend United.

The victory did have a distinct downside however, with goalkeeper Ian Feuer tearing muscle tissue in his shoulder and, although he played on in the second half after pain killing injections, the likelihood is that he will join the Hatters ever increasing injury list and be out for at least a fortnight.

An excellent second-half defensive performance saw the Hatters back four protect their 6 foot 7 inch American shot-stopper, as the visitors failed to muster a single effort on goal.

From the start, the Hatters seemed to adapt to Monday night football immediately, with Dwight Marshall, back in the side after a long lay-off, starting like a steam train. Marshall, joined Julian James and Andrew Fotiadis, in making his first appearance of the season, and lasted the full 90 minutes, appearing anything but rusty.

Employed wide on the right, the Jamaican international terrorised opposition left back Nathan Jones, once on the Hatters books, and his knee injury stood the test of several badly timed challenges from the hapless defender. Marshall went past Jones with embarrassing ease early on and gave the home side some width and an alternative attacking option that had been so evidently lacking in the team's previous two games.

Starting highly motivated and determined, the combination of lifting themselves off the bottom of the table, playing their first home match of the season and performing to the wider audience guaranteed by Sky seemed to galvanise the Hatters into action and kick-start their previously stuttering season. Successive crosses from the lively Marshall created chaos in the vis-

HATTERS1
Douglas 76
SOUTHEND UNITED0

LENNIE'S VIEW

Hatters boss Lennie Lawrence said:

When your keeper goes down injured in the first half you tend to settle for a point but, in the end, we deserved to win and that's what we finished up with. Their keeper made some brilliant saves and, on a good day, it could have been two or three nil.



For all the home side's superior possession however, the cherry-shirted Shrimpers enjoyed some fruitful moments in the first-half and were unlucky not to go ahead in the 13th minute, when midfielder Paul Byrne's superb long range effort rebounded to safety off the crossbar, with Feuer well beaten. A further let-off came on the half-hour, when ex-West Ham striker Jereon Boere headed weakly over when unmarked on the far post.

Feuer's injury came soon after, but the Hatters number one decided to wait until half-time for treatment despite being unable to lift his right arm at all. To everyone's surprise, he emerged for the restart and, in doing so, denied emergency sub-

keeper James an opportunity to get between the sticks. After their nervy first to the first-half, the interval seemed to give the Hatters the world of good, as they played with greater control and confidence in the second period.

Ramping forward in typical fashion, centre-half Steve Davis went close with a rasping 30-yard effort in the 54th minute and this was followed by a close range Mitchell Thomas header that produced a superlative acrobatic save from visiting keeper Simon Royce.

The Hatters began to dominate proceedings, with home debutant Simon Davies getting through prodigious amounts of work in midfield in what was his best performance since joining the club from Manchester United. Losing the game, Southend resorted to a more physical approach, with uncompromising challenges from Keith Dublin and Byrne being punished by yellow cards. Dublin was particularly brutal in his treatment of home striker Andrew Fotiadis and, in truth, the 19-year-old struggled against the physical intimidation of the former Watford centre-half.

Fotiadis was replaced in the 41st minute by fellow teenage striker Douglas, and his introduction seemed to set free Thorpe, who two minutes later went close after holding off the challenges of opposing defender Royce.

Turning cleverly to pull his shot just wide, Thorpe also enjoyed a supporting role as Douglas's winning strike when, latching on to a Davis headed clearance he found himself clear on goal with only Royce to beat. Royce saved well again to deny last season's top scorer but Douglas, who had occupied an offside position when the initial ball had been played through, was at hand to net the rebound. Southend protested but, whether the goal should have stood or not, there was little argument about the fact that the Hatters deserved three points.

Evidently keen to stake a claim for a regular place in the starting line-up, Douglas went close again in the 80th minute when Royce, once more, performed heroically to keep out his close range flick from Marshall volley, before the game ended as comprehensive a 1-0 win as you will see all season.

"Psychologically, it was important to move off the bottom of the league," Lennie Lawrence commented afterwards. "We also had three players in making their first appearances of the season so, from this perspective, it was a very satisfying performance. Their keeper made some brilliant saves and, on a good day, it could have been 2 or 3-0. Having said that, when your keeper goes down in the first half you tend to settle for a point but, in the end, we deserved to win and that's what we finished up with."

TEAMS: HATTERS - Ian Feuer, Julian James, Mitchell Thomas, Gary Waddock, Steve Davis, Marvin Johnson, Simon Davies, Graham Alexander, Andrew Fotiadis, Stuart Douglas, 63, Tony Thorpe (Paul McLaren, 90), Dwight Marshall. Sub not used: Richard Harvey.

SOUTHEND - Simon Royce, Andy Harris, Nathan Jones, Mike Byrne, Chris Beeson, Jereon Boere (Andy Rammell, 90), Andy Thompson, Adrian Clarke. Subs not used: George Parris, Mark Stimson.



● HAULED DOWN: Tony Thorpe goes down in the box, but his penalty appeal was ignored.

EARNED WIN IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS

Sky high!



● ALL DWIGHT ON THE NIGHT: Dwight Marshall ran the Southend defence ragged in his first match back after a lengthy lay-off due to injury.



● HAULED DOWN: Tony Thorpe goes down in the box, but his penalty appeal was ignored.

August	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Po
Sat 9	Blackpool	0-1		6,547	
Tues 12	Colchester (CC1)	1-0	Thorpe 87	2,840	
Sat 18	SOUTHEND	1-0	Douglas 75	5,140	
Sat 23	Fulham	A	3		
Sat 30	OLDHAM	H	3		
September					
Tues 2	MILLWALL	H	7.45		
Sat 6	Northampton	A	3		
Sat 13	Bournemouth	A	3		
Sat 20	WREXHAM	H	3		
Sat 27	Bristol City	A	3		
October					
Sat 4	WATFORD	H	3		
Sat 11	PLYMOUTH ARG	H	3		
Sat 18	Wigan Athletic	A	3		
Tues 21	Carlisle United	A	7.45		
Sat 25	BRENTFORD	H	3		
November					
Sat 1	Wycombe	A	3		
Tues 4	BURNLEY	H	7.45		
Sat 8	PRESTON	H	3		
Sat 15	FA Cup 1				
Tues 18	Grimsby	A	7.45		
Sat 22	WALSALL	H	3		
Sat 29	York City	A	3		
December					
Tues 2	GILLINGHAM	H	7.45		
Sat 13	Chesterfield	A	3		
Sat 20	BRISTOL ROVERS	H	3		
Fri 26	NORTHAMPTON	H	3		
Sun 28	Millwall	A	3		
January					
Sat 3	Southend (FAC 3)	A	3		
Sat 10	BLACKPOOL	H	3		
Sat 17	Oldham	A	3		
Sat 24	FULHAM	H	3		
Sat 31	BOURNMOUTH	H	3		
February					
Tues 3	Preston	A	7.45		
Sat 7	Wrexham	A	3		
Sat 14	Watford	A	3		
Sat 21	BRISTOL CITY	H	3		
Tues 24	WIGAN	H	7.45		
Sat 28	Plymouth Arg	A	3		
March					
Sat 7	WYCOMBE	H	3		
Sat 14	Burnley	A	3		
Sat 21	GRIMSBY	H	3		
Sat 28	Walsall	A	3		
April					
Sat 4	YORK CITY	H	3		
Sat 11	Gillingham	A	3		
Tues 14	CHESTERFIELD	H	7.45		
Sat 18	Bristol Rovers	A	3		
Sat 25	Brentford	A	3		
May					
Sat 2	CARLISLE	H	3		

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO									APPEARANCES & GOALS				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	Player	Lge	Cup	Lge	Goals
Bournemouth	2	2	0	0	3	0	6	+3	Graham Alexander	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Watford	2	2	0	0	3	0	6	+3	Simon Davies	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Bristol City	2	1	1	0	3	1	4	+2	Steve Davis	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Chesterfield	2	1	1	0	3	1	4	+2	Stuart Douglas	1(1)	1(0)	1	0
Bristol Rovers	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	+1	Ian Feuer	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Fulham	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	+1	Andrew Fotiadis	1(0)	0(0)	0	0
Preston North End	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	+1	Richard Harvey	0(0)	0(1)	0	0
Wigan Athletic	2	1	0	1	4	2	3	+2	Julian James	1(0)	0(0)	0	0
Millwall	2	1	0	1	4	2	3	+2	Marvin Johnson	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Oldham Athletic	2	1	0	1	4	3	3	+1	Dwight Marshall	1(0)	0(0)	0	0
Wrexham	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	+1	Gavin McGowan	1(0)	0(0)	0	0
LUTON TOWN	2	1	0	1	1	1	3	0	Paul McLaren	1(1)	1(0)	0	0
Blackpool	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	-1	David Oldfield	1(0)	1(0)	0	0
Grimsby Town	2	0	2	0	3	3	2	0	Mitchell Thomas	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Plymouth Argyle	2	0	2	0	3	3	2	0	Tony Thorpe	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Gillingham	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	Gary Waddock	2(0)	1(0)	0	0
Walsall	2	0	1	1	2	4	1	-2					
Wycombe Wdrs	2	0	1	1	2	5	1	-4					
Southend United	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	-1					
Carlisle United	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	-2					
Burnley	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	-1					
Northampton Town	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	-2					
Brentford	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	-3					
York City	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	-3					

BAD BOYS

Player	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
Gary Waddock	1	0
Totals	1	0

STAR TURNS

STEVE DAVIS was Hatter's star man against Southend with a masterful display at the heart of a defence, that protected injured goalkeeper Ian Feuer admirably.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Player	MoM
Steve Davis	1
Gavin McGowan	1
Mitchell Thomas	1
Totals	3

● Mitchell Thomas was Man of the Match against Colchester in the Coca Cola Cup tie.