



Rory, halelujah!



DAVID PLEAT could have saved Luton Town's season with his recommendation of Spurs reserve striker Rory Allen.

The former Hatters boss informed current incumbent of the Keeselworth Road hot seat, Lenie Lawrence, of Allen's availability last week and the 20-year-old front man responded by scoring one and creating another in a vital victory at the Boreas Stadium.

Allen, the man assigned with the task of scoring the goals to keep Luton Town in Division 2, led the line well throughout and left Lawrence raring at the first whistle.

"He was tired at the end but he's technically accomplished," Lawrence enthused, "he understands the position and put the goal away in confidence fashion. He didn't blame it over the bar as we've seen before. I really recommended him and we acted on that. At year or two ago, they were talking of him in the same breath as Nick Barnhill but he's been injured."

"I don't think you could have asked for much more than that in a first game for him and his first first team game for the first time. Hopefully he'll get a three or four goals and say 'I'm Saturday was by no means a one-trick show however with Allen's striking partner David Oldfield at his best, combining effectively with the Spurs man and having a hand in all three goals of this classic smash-and-grab act."

Threatened

Oldfield's 35-minute goal was the just reward for a disciplined first-half performance but Lenie Lawrence's men were grateful for Allen and Dwight Marshall's goals on the break as they weathered strong home pressure after the interval.

Walsall's French Connection of Roger Boli, Jeff Poreo, Didier Tholot and substitute Jean Jacques Dysselle threatened in two and starts all afternoon, but their unimposing attacks were deserving of more Oscars than the Trans.

Goalkeeper Tholot, who took a dramatic first-half tumble in the penalty box with a benighted Mitchell Thomas in close attendance, was the leading actor with the others providing convincing supporting roles, although Boli's assault on Julian Jones, just before half time, owed more to Jean-Claude Van Damme than Leonardo di Caprio. Fortunately for Boli, referee Bill Barnes and his assistants, otherwise excellent in their handling of the Gallic pugilist, missed the incident and the division's top scorer took the field for the second half.

But play-acting and intimidation did not deter the Hatters from the job in hand for the first 45 minutes, with Oldfield, deservedly breaking the deadlock, although it was questionable how deliberately.

Allen chased a lost cause down the right flank, saw persistence paid off when he retrieved the ball and headed in a dangerous cross.

Oldfield stretched and stuck but a hoped-for

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Vivashan 53, Tholot 74

HATTERS 3
Oldfield 50, Allen 58, Marshall 73

Attendance: 3,502

boot about eight yards out and looped the ball over helpless home keeper James Walker almost in slow motion.

The goal came after a 90-minute period in which the visitors had been reduced to ten men as Alan White, who must have suffered more cuts to his face this season than Henry Cropper did, took himself in his corner, received treatment for his latest basic task.

The reliable White, in for the suspended Darius Peterson, returned to the pitch and went on to enjoy a typically solid performance at the heart of the Hatters defence with Gary Waddock, recalled for his comparative qualities in place of Sean Evans, also underlining his importance to the relegation dogfight with a steady comeback to first team action.



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Their goal for their one-goal lead at the interval was not quite shared out by Walker's hands and there, seeing things by the home captain's legs.

It looked bad when a cross came about eight yards out and looped the ball over helpless home keeper James Walker almost in slow motion.

Urgency

The last opportunity of the half came in the 16th minute as substitute Gary Porter's free kick was not by accident but he was unable to get any direction on it.

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LUTON TOWN FC 1997-98 THE STORY SO FAR ...

Opponents		Score	Home	Away	At	Fix
Aug 12	Colchester (C)	1-0	Thorne 80		6,417	
Aug 19	Southend	1-0	Doyle 14		2,941	
Aug 22	Sheff Wed	1-0	Doyle 14		5,740	12
Aug 26	Colchester (C)	1-3	Thorne 80		6,146	15
Aug 29	Fulham	1-1	Thorne 80		5,404	12
Sept 2	Millwall	0-2			5,161	16
Sept 19	Sheff Wed	0-1	Marshall 45		4,446	18
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Sept 25	Wrexham	0-0	Doyle 14		3,537	20
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