

# Luton proud of emerging talent

**By Mandeep Sanghera**

Luton Town.....2  
Bristol Rovers.....0

LUTON have a tradition of producing a high calibre of talent from their ranks and if the current youth brigade continue in the same vein as in the 2-0 defeat of Bristol Rovers, then manager Lennie Lawrence will soon have higher division clubs showing an interest.

Eight of Luton's players, including substitute Andrew Fotiadis, were 22 or under and most have been the basis of the club's best start since 1969.

They have begun with five league wins in eight outings and a Worthington Cup victory against First Division Oxford United, in which they went down 4-2 during the away leg before coming back to take the tie 5-4.

It was that type of battling spirit that served them so well against Bristol Rovers. Following early strikes from defenders Steve Davis and Graham Alexander, Luton stood up to a sustained challenge from Rovers after the interval.

Goalkeeper Kelvin Davis, 21, justified Lawrence's con-

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fidence in him by adding to his save from Robert Trees' goalbound free-kick after 20 minutes with two equally important stops from Barry Hayles and Jason Roberts in the second half.

The win not only gave notice of the quality of the Luton youngsters, but also how quickly fortunes change in football. Last season Luton narrowly avoided relegation with Lawrence under pressure.

Now Luton are flying high with promotion the target. Lawrence believes at least two of the present side are capable of reaching the same level as previous home-grown stars like John Hartson, Matthew Upson and Ceri Hughes..

Lawrence delved into the European transfer market for the first time to sign Herve Bacque from Monaco, but due to the performance of Stuart Douglas up front and Fotiadis, the Frenchman is struggling to make the substitutes' bench.

**Luton:** Davis, Alexander, Davis, White, McGowan, Evers, Spring, McKinnon (Thomas, 89), McIndoe, Douglas (Fotiadis, 62), Gray. **Sub:** Marshall. **Goals:** Davis (7), Alexander (9). **Booked:** Spring.

**Bristol Rovers:** Collett, Leoni, Tillson, Foster, Basford, Meaker, Holloway (Shore, 83), Trees, Cureton, Roberts, Hayles. **Subs:** Low, Smith. **Booked:** Trees, Roberts.

**Referee:** B Coddington (Sheffield).