

Deadly Douglas grabs away goal

LUTON Town went into last night's second round Worthington Cup clash against Ipswich Town still in contention after Stuart Douglas' first leg goal last Tuesday in Suffolk.

Douglas seized on a mistake by Ipswich's new French recruit Manuel Thetis to level the scores on 60 minutes.

Thetis wrong-footed England Under-21 keeper Richard Wright by intercepting Spring's ball into the penalty box and only succeeded in rolling it into Douglas' path who gleefully side-footed into an unguarded net.

Thetis made amends by giving his new club a first-leg lead on 79 minutes when he took full advantage of a fortuitous opening. The big centre-half was sent upfield as part of the home side's artillery for a David Johnson long throw.

The Ipswich striker hurled the ball into the Hatters' penalty box with Gavin McGowan meeting it first. Unfortunately, for the visitors' left back, his attempted clearance rebounded off home skipper Matt Holland's head and fell for Thetis who cancelled out his earlier error by slamming the ball past a helpless Kelvin Davis.

Jamie Scowcroft had made the breakthrough for the first division side three minutes into the second half when he guided his volley into the

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bottom corner for his fifth goal of the season after Johnson had teased Hatters' namesake Marvin on the right flank.

The selection of Jimmy Cox was a surprise in a midfield with an average age of less than 19 but his inclusion gave the visitors a rare right-wing option and his direct running upset the Suffolk side on a number of occasions.

Douglas had the ball in the net seconds before his goal but saw the effort ruled out in a marginal offside decision. The energetic front man also came closest to adding a second when he flashed an edge-of-the-area effort just wide of the top corner on 76 minutes before exiting the action.

Sean Evers also went close twice for the plucky Hatters and, on another evening, they would have come away from Portman Road with a draw.

Team: Davis (K), Alexander, McGowan, Spring, Davis (S), Johnson, Cox (Bacqué, 82), Evers, Douglas (Fotiadis, 79), Gray, McIndoe. Att: 9.032.



Scorer Douglas