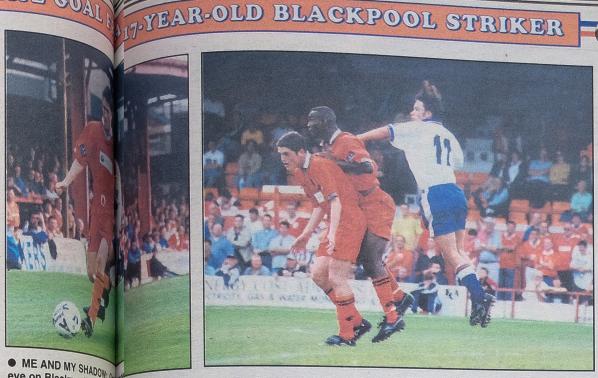
DAYE FLETT WATCHES THE HATTERS GO DOWN TO A LATE GOA



• SHOOT ON SIGHT: Phil Gray saw this first-half effort



• FORWARD THINKING: Captain Steve Davis looks to drive upfield with ex-Queens Park Rangers defender David Bardsley attempting to block his way.

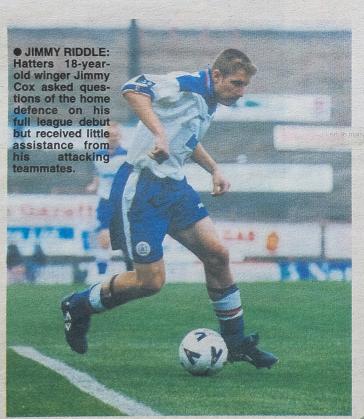


eye on Blackpool striker



w keeps a close LEAN ON ME: Michael McIndoe uses the Tangerines' right back Marvin Bryan to gain an aerial advantage.

Would you Adamnd Eve it



LENNIE'S VERDICT

We were too casual on the all, didn't move enough and

ln't help us one iota. Black-

what they can do.We

oked tired and didn't have

nything to give when it

nattered. We made so little

vere strong and showed

away possession which

RANK CARSON, Roy 'Chubby' Brown and Joe Pasquale were all playing in Blackpool on Saturday, but the seaside resort's football manager waited 85 minutes to play a joker of his own.

That was the moment Nigel Worthington chose to introduce trump card Adam Nowland, a 17-year-old YTS striker who repaid his manager's faith with an 88th-minute

"He'll be back to sweeping the stands on Monday," the beaming Blackpool boss The young striker upstaged the Hatters own teenage trio of 18-year-olds Matthew

Spring, Michael McIndoe and league debutant Jimmy Cox. It was Nowland's first goal in senior football and he finished the game feeling as

high as the town's famous tower while Hatters boss Lennie Lawrence was contemplating throwing himself off it.

"Massively disappointing" was a downbeat Lawrence's forthright appraisal of the afternoon not only because of the late goal but also his side's lack of attacking inspiration and his substitutes' failure to make any significant improvement. The Hatters manager even scrapped his side's post-match warm down which has become a feature stuck to religiously since Mandy Mallins' appointment as Fitness Instructor this season, preferring instead to lock the players in for a 20-minute dress-

ing room inquest. awrence explained: "It might not have physiologically been the right thing to do but we had to get them in and talk to them.

Earlier, it had all started so promisingly for the visitors as they dominated the first

Spring was again prominent in the opening stages, bossing the midfield and covering every blade of grass as the Hatters took the game to the home team. On four minutes, Spring fed an advancing Sean Evers whose lay off in the Black-

pool penalty box created a chance for Phil Gray. Gray shot low and brought an unconventional save out of home keeper Steve Banks who pushed his effort over the bar

Spring himself went close on 23 minutes after another intricate move involving Graham Alexander and Stuart Douglas that ended with the young midfielder driving just wide from 20 yards with Banks well beaten.

Two minutes later a characteristic Steve Davis surge forward was halted by a shell-shocked Blackpool defence only for the ball to break to Gray on the edge of the area whose spectacular volley drifted inches wide.

Sadly, for the visitors, they couldn't maintain that early momentum and the Seasiders started to impose their author-

The movement that had troubled the home side for the first 25 minutes seemed to stop and careless touches from the front pair of Gray and Douglas saw most subsequent

The Hatters passing was not as fluid as in recent games but that was inevitably going to happen sooner or later with a side so committed to the passing game as Luton.

What disturbed Lawrence most was the lack of attacking options when in possession. Spring and Davis were forced to dwell unduly on the ball

too many times because of the lack of movement in front of

At the back, Davis and Marvin Johnson's lack of pace was



BLACKPO(LUTON

exposed as regular balls over the ton home team.

utes when his outstretched leg felled Omerod and no contact seeme

The Hatters centre-half also tangle Blackpool striker Chris Malkin in eree Graham Cain waved aside all p to the chagrin of a vociferously a

Mr Cain could hardly be accused nd, on 62 minutes, he dismissed kick when Gavin McGowan ap the chest. Instead, he awarded the Aside from Mr Cain's interv also helped in their quest for a poi ing from Blackpool prior to No

Davis led to a chance for Tangel son but he allowed the Hatters his three-yard effort around the post

Aldridge before the interval. Malkin and Aldridge skied his wildly Blackpool, a fit and strong tel

upper hand in the second per Aldridge headed a gilt-edg Davis from five yards and l only for the effort to be disallow

the Hatters keeper.

At the other end, fit-again De Bacqué were thrown on to protion but neither made an imp time in which to do so than Mars

for Lennie Lawrence's men burst into the Blackpool box enough to run into a ta

A minute later, the only the Hatters' right wings Kelvin Davis had bee orange top so as not to and his green replacen nous sign if ever there w And so it proved whe



PUTTING THE BOOT IN: Sean Evers and Blackpool's Phil Thompson compete for the ball while Stuart Douglas also tries to muscle in.

w into Davis' bottom corner. An unhappy Lawrence did not go easy on his play-

afterwards. He said: "I'm disappointed that out of the 14 players we used today they couldn't conjure aything better than that. The biggest disappointent, apart from the late goal, was that after the first minutes we didn't look likely to score.

There were too many players carrying others and needs changing without a shadow of doubt. We

top harrel

GAVIN McGOWAN

other tenacious display to

ltinue his game-by-game

ttled well in an often rear-

ard action and deserved better

provement at left back.

ian a 1.0 defeat.

winto David to David on the bench because the two substitutes offered absolutely nothing. "It was disappointing to lose with two minutes to go

but we are not kidding ourselves and there is no way on this earth we should have won it. Lawrence did have a word of encouragement for the Hatters latest full debutant, saying: "Coxy was excellent but for him to be our most likely attacker

BLACKPOOL: Stev

Junior Bent, 75), Steve Bushell, Chris Malkin (Ian HATTERS: Kelvin Davis

dl, 69), Phil Gray (Bac-5, 82), Michael McIndoe

LUTON TOWN FC 1998-99 THE STORY SO FAR ...

Sat 8	Wycombe	1-0	Davis (S) 36	5,252
Tues 11	OXFORD UTD (WC1)	2-3	Alexander 59 (pen), 63 (pen)	3,165
Sat 15	PRESTON	1-1	Marshall 54	5,392
Tues 18	Oxford Utd (WC1)	3-1	Gray 37, Evers 48, McLaren 70	5,099
Sat 22	Reading	0-3		18,108 1
Sat 29	COLCHESTER	2-0	Douglas 62, Davis (S) 82	5,005
Mon 31	Wigan Athletic	3-1	Davis (S) 41, Evers 78, Gray 81	3,778
September Set 5	BURNLEY	1-0	Douglas 47	5,554
Sat 5		1-1	McKinnon 36	2,951
Tues 8	Wrexham		Davis (S) 7, Alexander 9	5,558
Sat 12	BRISTOL ROVERS	2-0	Douglas 60	9,032
Tues 15	Ipswich (WC 2)	1-2	Douglas ou .	5,695
Sat 19	Blackpool	0-1	TAP THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O	0,000
Tues 22	IPSWICH (WC 2)	H	7.45	
Sat 26	WALSALL	H	3	
October				
Sat 3	Fulham	A	3	
Sat 10	York City	A	3	
Sat 17	OLDHAM	Н	3	
Tues 20	NORTHAMPTON	Н	7.45	
Sat 24	Gillingham	A	3	H
Sat 31	CHESTERFIELD	Н	3	P Contraction
November	AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY OF			A ARREST CONTRACTOR
Sat 7	Stoke City	A	3	
Tues 10	NOTTS COUNTY	Ĥ	7.45	
		A	3	
Sat 21	Lincoln City	H	3	
Sat 28	MANCHESTER CITY			
December	Manadanfield	A	3	
Sat 12	Macclesfield			- 10 Maria / 10
Sat 19	MILLWALL	H	10 200	- 400000
Sat 26	READING	H	12 noon	
Mon 28	Bournemouth	A	3	
January		14 11	ALTHA	
Sat 2	Colchester	A	3	
Sat 9	WYCOMBE	H	3	
Sat 16	Preston	Α	3	
Sat 23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H *	3	
Sat 30	BOURNEMOUTH	H	3	
February	VIV.		The state of the s	
Sat 6	Burnley	Α	3	
Sat 13	WREXHAM	H	3	
Sat 20	Bristol Rovers	Α	3	
Sat 27	BLACKPOOL	Н	3	
March	Barrier Committee Co	A STE		
Sat 6				
	Walsall	Α	3	
THES	Walsall	A	7.45	
Tues 9	FULHAM _	Н	7.45	
Sat 13	FULHAM STOKE CITY	H	7.45	
Sat 13 Sat 20	FULHAM STOKE CITY Chesterfield	H H A	7.45	
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HATTERS

BAD BOYS

Gavin McGowan

Liam George Graham Alexander

Stuart Douglas Sean Evers

Michael McIndoe

Paul McLaren

Matthew Spring

Steve Davis

Phil Grav

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	LUTON NE	WS PLAYI	er of
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Ray McKinnon



PICTURES by Gareth Owen