

MARVELLOUS MARVIN IS IN FOR THE KILL

LUTON TOWN 4 IPSWICH TOWN 2 (LUTON WIN 5-4 ON AGGREGATE)

Fotiadis (52), Douglas (84),
S Davis (99)
M Johnson (119)

D Johnson (35)
S Davis (og 118)

Worthington Cup, Second round, second leg
Kenilworth Road, Tuesday, September 22, 1998

DAVE TALLARD

LITTLE Luton Town progressed to the third round of the Worthington Cup on a 5-4 aggregate at the expense of Ipswich Town at Kenilworth Road last night, and thoroughly deserved to do so.

Had the First Division visitors won it on the away goal rule after Luton skipper Steve Davis had headed into his own net two minutes from the end of extra time, it would not have been justice.

As it was, Luton struck right at the death with Marvin Johnson heading a dramatic winner that set Hatters fans in the 5,655 crowd wild with delight.

Matt Spring cornered from the left, Richard Wright could not keep hold of the cross and big Johnson headed home.

After taking a 35th minute lead through their Johnson, striker David, Ipswich looked well in command as they built on the 2-1 win at Portman Road in the first leg.

But the Blues then lost the plot and in the second half were under great pressure as the home team with a refreshing air about their play, went at them with venom.

This League Cup competition has given Ipswich many happy times over the past two seasons and we recall the great win over Manchester United and that epic quarter-final with Chelsea.

But it is not going to be repeated this season and the Blues only have themselves to blame. They didn't do themselves justice. At times there were a bit sloppy at the back and the cutting edge was missing up front.

For my money their best player was Kieron Dyer. He tried and tried to get a goal before ending up playing at right back in a reshaped team over the closing stages.

Town boss Burley dropped Jamie Clapham last night and had Mark Venus at left back with Frenchman Manuel Thetis, who passed a late fitness test on a hamstring injury, at centre half alongside Adam Tanner.

The writing looked on the wall for Luton in the 35th minute when Town striker Johnson struck with his fifth goal of the season.

Dyer crossed and Scowcroft knocked back into Johnson's path. The England B front runner smacked home a left foot shot. In the 52nd minute Luton were level through Andrew

ACTION TIMETABLE

16 mins: Spring's long shot taken well by Wright
20: Douglas just wide for Luton
25: Evers over the top
31: Davis in the Luton goal saves well from Dyer
35: 1-0 to Town as Johnson cracks in his fifth goal of the season.
49: Home keeper Davis palms away Johnson's shot
52: Luton level as Fotiadis cuts in to pick his spot
70: Town striker Johnson has a strong shot
84: Douglas puts the Hatters ahead
93: Scowcroft misses badly from a Stockwell cross
98: Davis heads in Luton's third
104: Spring long shot just over
118: Luton skipper Davis heads into his own net
120: Misery for Town and joy for Luton's Johnson who heads the clincher.

Fotiadis. He got the better of Thetis and cut in from the right to pick his spot past Wright.

In the 84th minute Luton went ahead.

Home skipper Davis, the centre half who had been pitched into attack, knocked the ball on and Stuart Douglas turned inside Adam Tanner to score.

It went to extra time and three minutes into it Scowcroft missed a glorious chance.

Dyer fed Stockwell and from the cross the big striker rolled wide.

It looked costly indeed when in the 98th minute Davis headed Luton ahead.

Graham Alexander cornered from the right and Davis leapt high to plant a solid header past Wright.

Luton were now defending more with five men strung across the back at this stage, Davis was now in defence again and in the 118th minute he headed into his own goal as Town substitute Danny Sonner centred.

Ipswich looked set for victory on the away goal rule but then Marvin Johnson struck to make it a happy night indeed for a Hatters outfit that had been finding scoring so difficult.

Luton had more fire in their bellies. They looked as though they wanted victory more.

Ipswich had been given a severe jolt as a money-spinning League Cup run was certainly hoped for again this season.



ONE -UP: David Johnson and Matt Holland celebrate the Town striker's first half goal, which put Ipswich in the driving seat until the late dramatic twist

VOX BOX

Delighted Luton manager Lennie Lawrence said: "This is a great night for this club and it is perhaps reminiscent of the times a few years back when this club were in the top flight of English football and winning things."

He continued: "We were a bit slow in tempo in the first half but we picked it up just at the right time. When Steve Davis scored with his header I thought it was the crowning glory. But I was so sad for him when he scored his own goal. Then it all came right for us at the end."

"We were up against a very good Ipswich side but we showed great spirit."

"That Ipswich goal just before the end of extra time was a real dagger to our hearts."

"But then Marvin Johnson popped up to get his one goal in every 300

games and we went through to the next round."

Ipswich skipper Matt Holland said: "It's naturally a disappointing night indeed. We had such a good run in this competition last season and it would have been nice to have had a good one again. It's a set back but now we have to pick ourselves up and make sure we continue our improved form in the league."

Luton skipper Steve Davis said: "I'm often pitched forward into the attack. That's why I get so many goals for a defender. I couldn't believe my luck though with that own goal. It could have been a killer blow, but then Marvin Johnson came to the rescue."

He added: "We got a First Division scalp in the first round by beating Oxford. But this is an even bigger one."

FACTFILE



LUTON TOWN

1. K Davis
2. Alexander
3. McGowan
4. Spring
5. S Davis
6. M Johnson
7. McKinnon
8. Evers
9. Douglas
10. Fotiadis
11. Marshall
12. McIndoe (unused)
13. Abbey (unused)
14. Cox (Marshall, 68)
15. Bacque (Fotiadis, 74)
16. White (McKinnon, 80)



IPSWICH TOWN



1. Wright
2. Stockwell
3. Taricco
4. Tanner
5. Thetis
6. Venus
7. Dyer
8. Holland
9. D Johnson
10. Scowcroft
11. Petta
12. Mathie (Stockwell, 104)
13. Bracey (unused)
14. Sonner (Taricco, 105)
15. Clapham (Petta, 78)
16. Holster (unused)

Referee: Mr P Taylor (Cheshunt)

Attendance: 5,655

MATCH STATS

SHOTS ON TARGET

11 7

SHOTS OFF TARGET

19 17

OFFSIDES

5 9

FOULS CONCEDED

13 15

BOOKED

2 1

Douglas (49 mins), Thetis (82 mins), Cox (98 mins)

SENT OFF

0 0

☒ Luton Town

☐ Ipswich Town

WORTHINGTON LEAGUE CUP



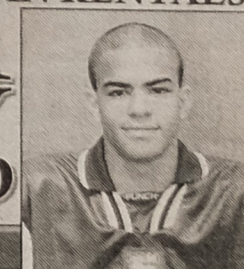
"Marvin Johnson popped up to get his one goal in every three hundred games and we went through to the next round"

Lennie Lawrence, Luton Town manager

GALLAGHER CAR AND VAN RENTALS

FAIR PLAY AWARD

KIERON DYER



KIERON DYER takes the Gallagher Car and Van Rental Fair Play Award. He conducted himself well and at the same time looked the most skilful player on view. Some of his runs struck fear into the heart of Luton and his passing was always neat and tidy.