

Hats off to Luton says Keegan

Fulham 1 Luton 3

98/99

LUTON gave Fulham a comprehensive beating as they became the first visiting team to win at Craven Cottage this season.

There was only one team in it right from the fourth minute when Phil Gray was left unmarked to head Sean Evers' cross into the net.

Luton were quicker to the ball, used it well and so outplayed the Londoners that it seemed as if the expensively assembled side were forever chasing shadows.

When they got the ball they gave it away, and they were lucky to be only one goal down at half-time.

The second-half began like the first, with an early headed goal for the Hatters – this time from Stuart Douglas.

Gavin McGowan, one of many bargain signings in the side, beat Gus Uhlenbeek to cross the ball and Douglas did the rest.

In the 65th minute skipper Steve Davis rose well above Rufus Brevett to head Ray McKinnon's free-kick past the luckless Maik Taylor.

Although Alan Neilson got a late consolation goal for Fulham, but it did not alter the fact that they had been second-best in all departments.

Manager Kevin Keegan said after the game that he was very disappointed.

"They played superbly," he said. "And it helped them that we played abysmally. It was a poor display by us – we were atrocious.

"I was surprised by how good they were and amazed by how bad we were.

"They were strong at the back, inventive in midfield and up front they could have got more than just three."

Keegan also disclosed that – "Unless something happens" – Peter Beardsley had played his last game for Fulham.

"It's up to him now," he said.

Fulham are without a game next weekend but there are hopes that Paul Peschisolido and John Salako will be back in a fortnight's time to give some much needed punch to the attack.

Fulham: Taylor, Collins, Brevett, Neilson, Coleman, Symons, Beardsley, Bracewell, Scott, Lehmann, Hayward. Subs: Uhlenbeek, Davis, Cornwall.

Luton: Davis, Alexander, Thomas, Spring, Davis, Johnson, McKinnon, Evers, Douglas, Gray, McGowan. Subs: Cox, Fotiadis, White.

Referee: J Kirkby (Sheffield).



PICTURE: Alex Yeung

GETAWAY MAN: Luton's Mitchell Thomas has too much pace for Rob Scott