■ DAVE FLETT WATCHES LENNIE'S LIONHEARTS DESTROY FAYED'S CICY DANS IN DEVASTATING FASHION

Super Hatters shake Mohammed!

● KEEGAN, KEEGAN WHAT'S THE SCORE?: The Fulham boss gamely answers the Hatters fans taunts while skipper Steve Davis (inset) seems to have lost count.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED and his burly entourage swanned into Craven Cottage on Saturday no doubt confident of taking three points against penniless Luton.

The Harrods owner took the acclaim of a subservient home crowd and signed autographs before the match but, 90 minutes later, he made a less ceremonious exit after his expensive side were humbled by an outstanding display from the Kenilworth Road paupers.

Goals from Stuart Douglas, Phil Gray and Steve Davis sealed a convincing 3-1 victory for the Hatters with manager Lennie Lawrence positively purring at the final whistle.

"That's the best league performance since I've been here when you measure the nature of the opposition and how comprehensive victory was," Lawrence said.

Fulham boss Kevin Keegan, lured to West London by Al Fayed's millions after vowing never to return to football, labelled his own team's performance as "abysmal" but also acknowledged the brilliance of the visitors.

A shell-shocked Keegan said: "That's certainly the best display I've seen against us since I've been at Fulham. Luton were strong at the back, inventive and full of running in midfield and had a field day up front as well.

"In fact, they could have scored one or two more. I was surprised by how good they were and told Lennie afterwards that he should be proud. They certainly looked more like promotion contenders than we did."

That was the understatement of the season from Keegan who had just seen his side outplayed and outfought in every department. From Phil Gray up front to Kelvin Davis in goal each player in a Hatters shirt won their individual battles and collectively they were awesome, making for an exhilarating afternoon for the 2,020 travelling fans.

Gray fought manfully to win his physical struggle against £2.3 million home captain Chris Coleman while keeper Davis' bravery was highlighted on the half hour when he raced off his line to punch the ball from attacker Rob Scott's head and then braced himself for the unavoidable collision. It was a clash that left Scott concussed and with no further part to play in the game. Luckily, for the Hatters, who had no goalkeeping cover on the bench, Davis was fit enough to continue.

The young keeper's intervention was vital as Peter Beardsley had delivered the perfect cross on to his teammate's head. Scott's departure meant a more advanced role for Beardsley but the ex-England man hardly got a sniff as the Hatters worked hard to cut off the supply line down both flanks.

Having watched Fulham in midweek, Lawrence had done his homework and Gavin McGowan and Sean Evers kept wing backs Gus Uhlenbeek and Rufus Brevett occupied all afternoon. Behind McGowan, the recalled Mitchell Thomas

FULHA	1	
HATTE	3	

made an assured return at left b
The home team's regular loss o
fast counter attacks led more o
excellent Evers who seized on e sion was also punished by frighteningly
The precedent was set after ot by charges out of midfield from the
ous ball inside Brevett for the s ball.
towards the penalty box, Evers inutes when Steve Davis played a glori-
stooped to head past a stranded fielder to run on to. With just one glance
Al Fayed, Keegan, the players livered a tremendous cross that Gray
script and neither was what was or.
could have been dismissed as a b rowd were stunned. This was not in the
Brevett was absolutely slaugh v. An away goal at such an early stage
mistake under pressure from Evers t the next 87 minutes.
high level of expectancy that no he home fans as he made mistake after
million pound men fell well short of the
Craven Cottage.

ence

The family club atmosphere th
replaced by a security paranoid g
success. Fulham, not long since tomised this old stadium has gone to be
the Hatters, not long since chall ere hot dogs cost £2.50 and fans demand
ach, although the difference in th up the football league, found losing to
ably warranted such anger. the game's top honours, hard to stom-
The Hatters could have been b's wage bills and balance sheets prob-
and prominence by the minute.
when he and Douglas were tw half time as Evers grew in confidence
excellent covering tackle and utes he raced upfield and elected to pass
cross forced home keeper Taylor ne but Beardsley got back well for an
The closest an overwhelmed s his sidefooted effort after a McGowan
minutes when German Dirk Le ve.
Three minutes into the second de came before the interval was on 11
the Hatters doubled their lead w d an effort well over.
wing. The ex-Arsenal man rode ome team were caught napping again as
glas to arc an exquisite looping wan's persistence paid off down the left
eek challenge before crossing for Dou-
er Taylor from about 12 yards out. Ray

McKinnon then had a good effort deflected wide before he provided the free kick for skipper Davis to grab his side's third.

Davis was later chastised for his bad language by a Fulham steward on *Radio Five* but it was the home team that were left cursing their carelessness after they left 5ft 8in Brevett to pick up the giant Geordie at the far post.

Inevitably, Davis completed the formality and made it a hat-trick of headers for the rampant Hatters by netting his sixth goal of the season.

Gray went on to force a fine reflex save out of Taylor as the insatiable Hatters sought a fourth but the over keen McGowan was thankful for some sensible refereeing as he escaped a second red card in as many games for tugging on Uhlenbeek's shirt after an earlier caution.

Perhaps in other circumstance McGowan might have made way for Jimmy Cox before the 86th minute but Lawrence clearly wanted his 11 heroes to enjoy the fruit of their hard work.

Fulham grabbed an undeserved consolation goal on 86 minutes when their first shot on target finished in the back of Kelvin Davis' net, an unmarked Alan Neilson heading home Beardsley's corner.

There were ready made excuses for Keegan - no midweek break and the absence of Moody, Peschisolido and Salako - but he was wise enough not to take them. Nothing could detract from the Hatters who proved that, on their day and with a first choice 11, they can outclass any team in the division.

FULHAM: Maik Taylor, Wayne Collins, Rufus Brevett, Alan Neilson, Chris Coleman, Kit Symons, Peter Beardsley, Paul Bracewell (Sean Davis, 58), Rob Scott (Gus Uhlenbeek, 31), Dirk Lehmann (Luke Cornwall, 58), Steve Hayward.

HATTERS: Kelvin Davis, Graham Alexander, Mitchell Thomas, Matthew Spring, Steve Davis, Marvin Johnson, Ray McKinnon, Sean Evers, Stuart Douglas (Andrew Fotiadis, 88), Phil Gray, Gavin McGowan (Jimmy Cox, 85). Sub not used: Alan White.

● I PHIL GOOD: Phil Gray celebrates his opening goal (top) while (above) the hard-working Gavin McGowan leaves the ineffectual Paul Bracewell on his backside.

● ON THE WAYNE: Livewire midfielder Sean Evers pressures ex-Premiership star Wayne Collins.

LENNIE'S VERDICT

"We're obviously delighted. There's no doubt Fulham will be there at the end and I'll be surprised if they're not in the top two.

We approached it like the cup games because we regard Fulham as a first division team.

We prepared for it and the players were up for it mentally and physically. We performed well individually and collectively."

TOP HATTER

SEAN EVERS

Has the stamina of a thoroughbred race horse and terrorised Fulham all afternoon with his pace and energy. Other candidates were Steve Davis, Phil Gray and Gavin McGowan.

PICTURES by Gareth Owen

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

August	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 8	Wycombe	1-0	Davis (S) 36	5,252	10
Tues 11	**OXFORD UTD (WC1)**	2-3	Alexander 59 (pen), 63 (pen)	3,165	-
Sat 15	**PRESTON**	1-1	Marshall 54	5,392	7
Tues 18	Oxford Utd (WC1)	3-1	Gray 37, Evers 48, McLaren 70	5,099	-
Sat 22	Reading	0-3		18,108	12
Sat 29	**COLCHESTER**	2-0	Douglas 62, Davis (S) 82	5,005	9
Mon 31	Wigan Athletic	3-1	Davis (S) 41, Evers 78, Gray 81	3,778	5
September					
Sat 5	**BURNLEY**	1-0	Douglas 47	5,554	2
Tues 8	Wrexham	1-1	McKinnon 36	2,951	3
Sat 12	**BRISTOL ROVERS**	2-0	Davis (S) 7, Alexander 9	5,558	3
Tues 15	Ipswich (WC 2)	1-2	Douglas, 60	9,032	-
Sat 19	Blackpool	0-1		5,695	5
Tues 22	**IPSWICH (WC 2)**	4-2	Fotiadis 52, Douglas 83, Davis (S) 99 Johnson 120	5,655	-
Sat 26	**WALSALL**	0-1		5,530	7
October					
Sat 3	Fulham	3-1	Gray 3, Douglas 48, Davis (S) 65	11,856	7
Sat 10	York City	A	3		
Sat 17	**OLDHAM**	H	3		
Tues 20	**NORTHAMPTON**	H	7.45		
Sat 24	Gillingham	A	3		
Tues 27	**COVENTRY (WC 3)**	H	7.45		
Sat 31	**CHESTERFIELD**	H	3		
November					
Sat 7	Stoke City	A	3		
Tues 10	**NOTTS COUNTY**	H	7.45		
Sat 21	Lincoln City	A	3		
Sat 28	**MANCHESTER CITY**	H	3		
December					
Sat 12	Macclesfield	A	3		
Sat 19	**MILLWALL**	H	3		
Sat 26	**READING**	H	12 noon		
Mon 28	Bournemouth	A	3		
January					
Sat 2	Colchester	A	3		
Sat 9	**WYCOMBE**	H	3		
Sat 16	Preston	A	3		
Sat 23	**WIGAN ATHLETIC**	H	3		
Sat 30	**BOURNEMOUTH**	H	3		
February					
Sat 6	Burnley	A	3		
Sat 13	**WREXHAM**	H	3		
Sat 20	Bristol Rovers	A	3		
Sat 27	**BLACKPOOL**	H	3		
March					
Sat 6	Walsall	A	3		
Tues 9	**FULHAM**	H	7.45		
Sat 13	**STOKE CITY**	H	3		
Sat 20	Chesterfield	A	3		
Sat 27	**GILLINGHAM**	H	3		
April					
Sat 3	Oldham Athletic	A	3		
Tues 6	**YORK CITY**	H	7.45		
Sat 10	Northampton	A	3		
Wed 14	Manchester City	A	3		
Sat 17	**LINCOLN CITY**	H	3		
Sat 24	Notts County	A	3		
May					
Sat 1	**MACCLESFIELD**	H	3		
SAT 8	Millwall	A	3		

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DIVISION TWO

Up to October 5 1998

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke City	11	8	0	3	18	10	24
Walsall	11	7	1	3	15	12	22
Preston	11	6	3	2	22	12	21
Fulham	11	6	3	2	15	9	21
Blackpool	11	6	2	3	16	14	20
Bournemouth	11	6	2	3	14	7	20
Luton Town	**11**	**6**	**2**	**3**	**14**	**9**	**20**
Man City	11	4	6	1	16	12	18
York City	10	5	3	2	16	13	18
Bristol Rovers	11	4	4	3	15	11	16
Notts County	11	4	3	4	14	12	15
Wrexham	11	4	3	4	13	15	15
Colchester United	11	4	3	4	12	12	15
Millwall	11	4	3	4	10	12	15
Chesterfield	11	4	3	4	6	8	15
Wigan Athletic	11	4	2	5	12	11	14
Gillingham	11	2	6	3	15	13	12
Reading	10	3	2	5	11	17	11
Oldham	11	3	2	6	10	16	11
Burnley	11	2	4	5	11	15	10
Macclesfield	11	2	3	6	7	13	9
Northampton	11	1	5	5	10	15	8
Lincoln City	11	1	2	8	8	20	5
Wycombe Wndrs	11	0	3	8	6	18	3

GAMES AND GOALS

	Apps		Goals	
Player	Lge	Cup	Lge	Cup
Graham Alexander	11(0)	4(0)	1	2
Hervé Bacqué	2(4)	1(2)	0	0
Jimmy Cox	2(1)	1(1)	0	0
Kelvin Davis	11(0)	4(0)	0	0
Steve Davis	11(0)	4(0)	5	1
Stuart Douglas	9(0)	3(0)	3	2
Sean Evers	11(0)	4(0)	1	1
Andrew Fotiadis	1(4)	1(1)	0	1
Liam George	2(3)	0(2)	0	0
Phil Gray	10(1)	3(0)	2	1
Marvin Johnson	9(0)	4(0)	0	1
Dwight Marshall	3(1)	3(0)	1	0
Gavin McGowan	11(1)	4(0)	0	0
Michael McIndoe	4(2)	1(1)	0	0
Ray McKinnon	9(1)	1(1)	1	0
Paul McLaren	2(1)	1(1)	0	1
Matthew Spring	11(0)	4(0)	0	0
Mitchell Thomas	2(5)	1(0)	0	0
Alan White	2(2)	0(1)	0	0
Nathan Abbey	0(0)	0(0)	0	0
Simon Davies	0(0)	0(0)	0	0
Gary Doherty	0(0)	0(0)	0	0
Paul Showler	0(0)	0(0)	0	0

BAD BOYS

Player	Y	R
Gavin McGowan	6	1
Marvin Johnson	3	1
Steve Davis	2	0
Stuart Douglas	2	0
Liam George	2	0
Graham Alexander	1	0
Jimmy Cox	1	0
Sean Evers	1	0
Phil Gray	1	0
Michael McIndoe	1	0
Ray McKinnon	1	0
Paul McLaren	1	0
Matthew Spring	1	0
Mitchell Thomas	1	0
Total	24	2

● McGOWAN

LUTON NEWS PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

(number of Top Hatter awards won)

Graham Alexander	3
Matthew Spring	3
Steve Davis	2
Sean Evers	2
Stuart Douglas	1
Phil Gray	1
Marvin Johnson	1
Gavin McGowan	1
Ray McKinnon	1

● SPRING