

Angry mob turn on Lawrence's Luton rookies

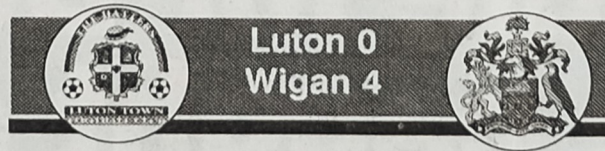


AVIS: Sent-off

LENNIE LAWRENCE defended his inexperienced Luton team who came in for a torrent of abuse from the home crowd as they slumped to their worst Kenilworth Road defeat for more than a year.

The game was as good as over in the first half-hour by which time Luton had gone down to 10 men and were two goals behind.

Wigan's quick, attacking football brought them a 15th-minute goal, headed in by defender Pat McGibbon from a



corner by Michael O'Neill. Things did not improve for Luton when goalkeeper Kelvin Davis was sent off in the 24th minute for handling the ball outside his area in stopping Graeme Jones' run for goal.

Right-back Gerry Harrison replaced the former England Under-21 international and, playing in goal in the league for the first time in his life,

made several good saves. Even so he was left helpless as Wigan added to their tally through Andy Liddell, Jones and Simon Haworth.

Luton manger Lawrence will ask referee Gurnam Singh to have a look at the video of the red card incident.

He hopes Singh will agree it was an accidental hand ball offence, and if he does Davis will escape a one match sus-

pension. Lawrence said: "I am certainly not castigating the referee. He is a good one."

"We had already let in a goal before that. Wigan are a good side, while we had to field a lot of youngsters."

"Wigan put on a sub who cost £600,000, while our team included only two bought players and they were only £40,000 and £25,000."

"With six senior players missing, it's no surprise we got bashed by a good team, and I am not going to criticise our players."

"They managed to keep going despite the disappoint-

ment, and Gerry Harrison exceptionally well in goal."

Wigan boss Ray Mathie said: "My lads gave a good professional performance. They played some good football and we scored some good goals."

"It would have been easier for us to ease off in the second half men but we did not."

Luton: Davis, Harrison, White, Spring, Dyché, Johnson, McGowan, Evers, Douglas, Fotiadis, Zahar, Oni. Subs: McIndoe, Doherty, Scallott.

Wigan: Carroll, Green, Sharkey, McGibbon, Balmer, Rogers, Liddle, Greenall, Jones, O'Neill, Barlow. Subs: Lee, Kilford, Haworth.

Referee: G Singh (Wolverhampton)