

DAVE FLETT watches a young goalkeeper make a big impression

Abbey-ness for Hatters as Nathan saves the day

● HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION:

Stuart Douglas out-jumps Burnley defender Neil Moore during Saturday's 2-1 victory. Moore was later sent off for a second bookable offence on the Hatters' striker.



PICTURE by Dave Harwood

ROOKIE keeper

His left save was a rare first for the 19-year-old. The Burnley keeper was sent off for a second bookable offence on the Hatters' striker.

For a 20-year-old, Nathan Abbey's debut was a confident performance. He was restricted to the Walsall loan spell at non-league level.

After half-time, the 25-year-old Micky Mearns was sent off for a second bookable offence on the Hatters' striker.

Burnley's Graham Morrison looked certain to score after his heroics a minute later. The visitors' off-side trap and lenient recovery, still up. That was a last-minute stopper was quick.

Super-sub Gary Hatters saved the best for last with a late goal to seal the victory. It was Abbey's first-half effort and give the hero. Peter Swan's looping header seemed to have the Hatters keeper for a last-minute equaliser.

Abbey's determination in the encounter, will be doggedly. The quality of the team and Sean Dyche again defended.

Intelligent movement on the ground, saw the visitors' off-side trap and lenient recovery, still up. That was a last-minute stopper was quick.

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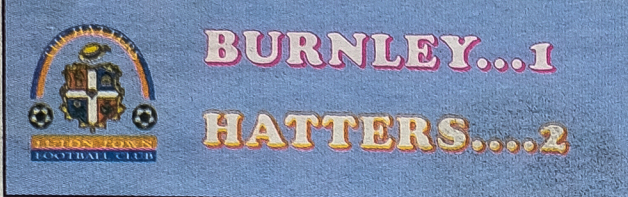
But in the space of a few minutes, the Hatters' goalkeeper, was a real boost for the Hatters. The appearance of the inspirational Douglas, who had repelled his former club's goalkeeper, was a real boost for the Hatters.

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Luton triumph at 10-man Burnley

Hatters



The decision seemed harsh and served to stiffen the angry home side's resolve.

Having dominated when it was 11 against 11, the Hatters struggled to make the extra man count after Moore's dismissal.

On 75 minutes, Brian Reid's header floated ominously to the far post where Davis was lurking to nod home but Abbey was alert to the danger and punched clear.

Glen Little also sent a diving header just over as Burnley's 10 men began to harbour thoughts of snatching victory.

But Luton knew that if they are to salvage anything from this season they could not possibly afford to pass up the opportunity of three points against a side down to 10 men for most of the second-half.

Doherty has won the Hatters points against Lincoln and Manchester City with goals after coming on as substitute this season and the 19-year-old Irishman made it a hat-trick with his latest strike.

Fotiadis was again involved, slipping the ball to Spring whose square pass found Doherty storming into the Burnley area.

The flame-haired front man's finish could not have been more emphatically executed, Crichton grasping at fresh air as the ball sped into his top corner.

Abbey's match-winning save followed and there was still time for Fotiadis and Spring to have firm drives saved by the unlucky Crichton.

A breathless Lennie Lawrence said afterwards: "It's a great win for us with Graham Alexander not starting, Mitchell Thomas still out, Ray McKinnon playing his second game after injury, a league debut in goal and two kids up front. It's a great indicator for us."

"If we can come here and win with that team, we're moving in the right direction."

"We've played very well in the last month except against Wigan. We haven't had the points that our performances have deserved. We did today."

"The first-half was as good as we've played all season. When their man went off, as is often the case, we lost our momentum."

"So we made a couple of substitutions and won it in the last five minutes. It would have been an injustice if we hadn't won for the first-half performance alone."

BURNLEY: Paul Crichton, Neil Moore, Steve Morgan, Micky Mellon, Steve Davis, Brian Reid, Glen Little (Peter Swan, 77), Gordon Armstrong, Andy Cooke, Andy Payton (Mark Robertson, 57), Graham Branch (Brad Maylett, 70).

HATTERS: Nathan Abbey, Gerry Harrison, Gavin McGowan (Alan White, 88), Matthew Spring, Sean Dyche, Marvin Johnson, Sean Evers, Paul McLaren, Stuart Douglas (Gary Doherty, 71), Andrew Fotiadis, Ray McKinnon (Graham Alexander, 77).

LENNIE'S VERDICT

"It's a great indicator for us. If we can come here and win with that team, we're heading in the right direction."

LUTON TOWN FC 1998-99

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	5,655	-
Sat 26	WALSALL	0-1	Johnson 120	5,530	7
October					
Sat 3	Fulham	3-1	Gray 3, Douglas 48, Davis (S) 65	11,856	7
Sat 10	York City	3-3	Douglas 22, Evers 43, Gray 55	3,780	4
Sat 17	OLDHAM	2-0	Gray 82, Scarlett 90	5,447	4
Tues 20	NORTHAMPTON	1-0	Alexander 19	6,087	3
Sat 24	Gillingham	0-1		5,602	4
Tues 27	COVENTRY (WC 3)	2-0	Gray 50, Davis (S) 78	9,051	-
November					
Sat 7	Stoke City	1-3	Douglas 81	12,964	6
Tues 10	BARNLEY (WC4)	1-0	Gray 82	8,435	-
Sun 15	Boreham Wood (FA1)	3-2	Gray 33, 53, Davis (S) 76	1,772	-
Sat 21	Lincoln City	2-2	Gray 43, Doherty 76	4,893	6
Sat 28	MANCHESTER CITY	1-1	Doherty 76	9,070	7
December					
Tue 1	Sunderland (WC5)	0-3		35,742	-
Sat 5	HULL CITY (FA2)	1-2	Davis (S) 36	5,021	-
Sat 12	Macclesfield	2-2	Douglas 3, Gray 90	2,905	8
Sat 19	MILLWALL	1-2	Davis (S) 69	5,939	11
Mon 28	Bournemouth	0-1		8,863	14
January					
Sat 2	Colchester	2-2	Alexander (pen) 7, White 72	4,694	14
Tues 5	WALSALL (AWS 2)	0-3		1,870	-
Sat 9	WYCOMBE	3-1	Spring 16, Evers 69, Douglas 75	5,063	13
Sat 16	Preston	1-2	Fotiadis 15	11,034	12
Sat 23	WIGAN ATHLETIC	0-4		4,934	13
Sat 30	BOURNEMOUTH	2-2	McKinnon 6, Doherty 53	5,426	14
February					
Sat 6	Burnley	2-1	Fotiadis 34, Doherty 87	10,285	12
Sat 13	WREXHAM	H	3		
Sat 20	Bristol Rovers	A	3		
Tues 23	NOTTS COUNTY	H	7.45		
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		
Tues 23	READING	H	7.45		
Sat 27	GILLINGHAM	H	11.30		
April					
Sat 3	Oldham Athletic	A	3		
Tues 6	YORK CITY	H	7.45		
Sat 10	Northampton	A	3		
Wed 14	Manchester City	A	7.45		
Sat 17	LINCOLN CITY	H	3		
Sat 24	Notts County	A	3		
May					
Sat 1	MACCLESFIELD	H	3		
Sat 8	Millwall	A	3		

TBA CHESTERFIELD (H)

DIVISION TWO

Up to February 6 1999

Player	Apps	Cup	Goals
Nathan Abbey	1(0)	1(0)	0
Graham Alexander	19(1)	9(0)	3
Hervé Bacqué	2(5)	2(2)	0
Emmerson Boyce	0(0)	1(0)	0
Jimmy Cox	2(2)	1(1)	0
Kelvin Davis	26(0)	9(0)	0
Steve Davis	20(0)	9(0)	6
Simon Davies	2(0)	0(0)	0
Gary Doherty	1(9)	2(2)	4
Stuart Douglas	24(0)	7(1)	2
Sean Dyche	5(0)	1(0)	0
Sean Evers	26(0)	10(0)	3
Andrew Fotiadis	5(8)	2(2)	2
Stuart Fraser	1(1)	1(0)	0
Liam George	2(3)	0(2)	0
Phil Gray	22(1)	9(0)	6
Gerry Harrison	7(0)	1(0)	0
Marvin Johnson	25(0)	8(0)	0
Tresor Kandol	0(0)	1(0)	0
Dwight Marshall	3(1)	3(0)	1
Gavin McGowan	20(1)	9(0)	0
Michael McIndoe	8(3)	3(3)	0
Ray McKinnon	18(1)	6(1)	2
Paul McLaren	8(4)	4(3)	0
Kofi Nyamah	0(0)	1(1)	0
Andre Scarlett	1(3)	0(2)	0
Paul Showler	2(1)	0(0)	0
Matthew Spring	27(0)	8(1)	1
Mitchell Thomas	11(5)	3(0)	0
Alan White	8(11)	2(3)	1
Landry Zahana-Oni	2(1)	0(0)	0

HATTERS BAD BOYS

PLAYER	Y	R	Gerry Harrison	1	0
Gavin McGowan	12	1	Matthew Spring	1	0
Graham Alexander	7	1	Total	63	6
Marvin Johnson	4	1			
Mitchell Thomas	4	1			
Steve Davis	6	0			
Stuart Douglas	5	0			
Paul McLaren	5	0			
Phil Gray	2	1			
Michael McIndoe	4	0			
Kelvin Davis	1	1			
Ray McKinnon	3	0			
Liam George	2	0			
Alan White	2	0			
Jimmy Cox	1	0			
Sean Dyche	1	0			
Gary Doherty	1	0			
Sean Evers	1	0			

LUTON NEWS PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

(Top Hatter awards won)	Apps	Goals
Graham Alexander	5	3
Steve Davis	5	6
Matthew Spring	5	5
Phil Gray	3	6
Marvin Johnson	2	0
Sean Evers	2	0
Gerry Harrison	2	0
Gavin McGowan	2	0
Ray McKinnon	2	0
Nathan Abbey	1	0
Kelvin Davis	1	0
Stuart Douglas	1	0
Sean Dyche	1	0
Paul McLaren	1	0
Andre Scarlett	1	0
Paul Showler	1	0
Mitchell Thomas	1	0

● ABBEY: Top Hatter v Burnley.