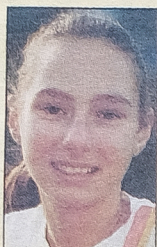


The Sport

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

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INSIDE SPORT



Katrina Wootton

CROSS-country starlet Katrina Wootton ran the race of her life to win the Reebok UK and Inter-Counties under 13 title. But her first thought was for a stricken rival.

See page 45



Gerry Harrison

HATTERS' uncertain future after the decision by David Kohler to quit could mean a delay in a permanent deal for Sunderland loan man Gerry Harrison, who is currently injured.

See page 46



Greg Whyte

OLYMPIC pentathlete Greg Whyte is back in the GB squad for the 10th year in a row after winning another national title at the weekend - the British tetrathlon championship.

See page 45



Lennie Lawrence

LUTON Town boss Lennie Lawrence has admitted his position at Kenilworth Road is as uncertain as anybody else's as the club face up to a future without David Kohler.

See page 45

Misery goes on!

Skipper hurt as Hatters crash again

LUTON 0 NOTTS COUNTY 1

A SORRY Luton Town surrendered another three points at home to relegation-threatened Notts County last night.

Calls of "Lawrence out" reverberated around Kenilworth Road after this latest dismal offering, but with David Kohler tendering his resignation the disgruntled home fans may have to wait for their wish.

Lawrence's rally cry had been for the players to pull together and put all the recent turmoil behind them but he was let down by the players' response, which was both lack-lustre and uninspired as they went down without a fight to Kevin Rapley's 72nd minute strike.

Notts County had the best chances of a tepid first-half with Kelvin Davis reacting well to stop Richard Liburd and Paul Bowland efforts and Rapley slicing woefully wide after beating the Hatters' offside trap.

At the other end, Lennie Lawrence's men struggled to break down a well-drilled County side.

For the first 45 minutes, the Hatters sorely missed substitute Phil Gray's intelligence up front and failed to stretch the visitors down the flanks.

The inexperienced Jimmy Cox was brought in on the right-wing but was ineffective before the interval and Ray McKinnon continues to look uncomfortable with his wide-left position.

Devoid of creativity, Luton were restricted to long-range pot-shots for their best opportunities, with Matthew Spring having a 25-yard effort deflect-

DAVE FLETT reports from Kenilworth Road

ed wide and Gary Doherty, suspended for Saturday's game against Blackpool, putting a harmless lob over.

Luton lost injured captain Marvin Johnson at half-time, with Alan White replacing him for the restart.

Cox wasted a perfect opportunity to lift the gloom and break the deadlock straight after the interval, stabbing against the post from five yards out.

On 67 minutes, the patient Gray was belatedly introduced into the action for the disappointing Stuart Douglas.

But, five minutes later,

the Northern Ireland international was powerless as the visitors took the lead.

Dennis Pearce's corner was flicked on by Peter Beadle for Rapley to poke in at the far post.

Davis raced out of his goal to contest referee Rob Style's decision quicker than he did to block Rapley's effort and the Waterlooville official

waved aside the keeper's desperate pleas for offside.

Substitute Andre Scarlett did not for the Hatters on 83 minutes, but his close-range tap-in after Gray's vicious shot had rattled off both posts was disallowed for offside.

The lively Gray also later blasted a 20-yard effort just wide but it was too little too late for the Hatters.



FOILED: Notts County goalkeeper Darren Ward dives to save this Hatters' effort as Stuart Douglas and Gary Doherty look on

Match line-up

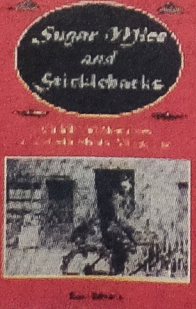
HATTERS: Kelvin Davis, Graham Alexander, Matthew McGowan, Matthew Spring, Sean Dwyer, Stuart Johnson, Jimmy Cox, Paul McLaren, Stuart Douglas, Gary Doherty, Ray McKinnon, Alan White, Phil Gray, Andre Scarlett.
NOTTS COUNTY: Darren Ward, Ian Henderson, Dennis Pearce, Richard Liburd, Mark Wormald, Paul Richardson, Gary Owers, Paul Bowland, Kevin Rapley, Peter Beadle, Francis Tierney, Sub: Gerry Creaney, Andy Hughes, Chris Fairhead.
 Referee: Rob Styles (Waterlooville).

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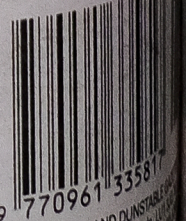


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