

ROYALS 1 LUTON TOWN 2

SAT AUG 21, MADEJSKI STADIUM, KICK-OFF 3.00PM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF READING EVENING POST

MATCH REPORT

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

99/00

HATTERS STEAL IT AT THE END

Royals 1 Luton Town 2

20 year-old striker LIAM GEORGE dealt the knockout blow to Tommy Burns' team in the 85th minute as a young and talented Hatters outfit maintained their unbeaten League record with a shock 2-1 win at Madejski Stadium. It was a great result for Lennie Lawrence's team, who fielded eight players aged 21 and under, while the Royals were left to rue the sloppy defending that gave the Hatters their winning goal.

Reading, who included new signings Neil Smith and Peter Grant in the midfield, started the game very brightly and came close to opening the scoring in the first half but Jim McIntyre and Darren Caskey's efforts were comfortably saved by impressive Hatters' keeper Nathan Abbey. The visitors started the second half well and took the lead in the 54th minute when ANDREW FOTIADIS netted with a neat close-range header. Reading responded by introducing £650,000 summer signing Nicky Forster for his first appearance after recovering from injury, and the home side were level within two minutes - although Forster wasn't involved in the goal. A deep cross from Andy Gurney was met by Keith Scott, and his cushioned header fell into the path of Luton old boy MARTIN WILLIAMS, who produced a good finish into the bottom right hand corner to register his first goal of the season. The Royals continued to press, and for a while it looked as though a winning goal for the home side was inevitable. New boy Forster was looking very sharp, and he created a chance for himself with a great run but saw his low shot on the turn well saved by Abbey. The visitors began to get back into the game, and after George's goal they held on for their three points, although Scott nearly equalised with a near-post header that flashed just wide of the post in the last minute.

Attendance 8,741

ROYALS STORYBOARD

- 1 Stuck in**
Debutant Peter Grant gets in amongst the thick of the action.
- 2 Break away**
Royals Nicky Forster gets clean away from his marker.
- 3 The Equaliser**
Martin Williams connects with Keith Scott's header to make it 1-1.
- 4 Debut boy**
New boy Neil Smith drives through the Luton midfield.

FORMATION



SUBS

(9) FORSTER