

99/00

THE seeds of a good footballing display against Wigan on Easter Monday were set in a lacklustre show at Gillingham, where the Town failed to impress much in any department. The players and coaches shared the fans' disappointment at being second best, and were determined to bounce back 48 hours later at Kenilworth Road, as they did.

Stuart Douglas was recalled to retain a three-man attack after the departure of Gary Doherty, but the Town were mainly firing blanks while Gillingham, seeking promotion, were strong and determined, and on the day worthy winners with a goal in each half. They might have scored more, while we had few chances, although things might have been different if a header by Phil Gray in the last minute of the first half, from a free kick by Matthew Spring, had crept inside, instead of outside, a post.

Match Details

Town: Roberts, White, Watts, Johnson, Boyce, McLaren (Locke 70 mins), Spring, Taylor, George, Gray, Douglas. Unused subs: McGowan, Fraser, Scarlett, Abbey.

Booked: Marvin Johnson, 51 mins, foul on Paul Smith; Phil Gray, 57 mins, and Matthew Spring, 90 mins, both for dissent.

Gillingham: Bartram, Pennock, Lewis, Ashby, Butters, Southall, Smith, Hessenthaler (Nosworthy 66 mins), Gooden, Butler, Asaba (Matthews 66 mins). Unused subs Bass, Rowe, Mautone.

Booked: No-one

The goals: 1-0 9 mins - Andy Hessenthaler header in off a post from a volleyed cross by Ty Gooden, returning the ball into the middle after 38-year-old Steve Butler had got down Gillingham's right wing looking offside to some, and over-hit the cross; 2-0 60 mins - sweet strike from the edge of the box by Nicky Southall from a pulled-back corner by Hessenthaler.

Referee: Alan Wiley, Staffordshire.

Attendance: 8,667, Priestfield's highest league gate of the season, including 546 Town fans.

● OUTNUMBERED: Liam George tries to beat the odds at Priestfield.

