

Fot a pity as danger man Andy limps out

ANDREW Fotiadis limped out of Saturday's Millmoor match after his first-half power show threatened to bring Hatters their first away victory of the season.

Fotiadis stunned the home crowd with a sweetly-struck goal after just six minutes and gave the Rotherham defence a torrid time.

Manager Ricky Hill, sitting in the stand, must have been thinking that his search for a new target man wasn't as urgent as he thought.

Sadly, as so often in the past, Fotiadis pulled up injured at the interval, didn't reappear for the second-half and the whole shape of the game changed. Rotherham, given a severe roasting by boss Ronnie Moore at the interval, came out determined to fight back and snatch all the points.

After surviving a Mark Stein effort which struck the woodwork in the 61st minute, they pulled level through former Manchester United striker Mark Robins four minutes later. The writing looked to be on the wall for Hatters but, to their credit, Hill's battlers somehow dug in and managed to hold on.

In fact, they might have snatched victory six minutes from time when substitute Tresor Kandol hit the post from Liam George's flick-on.

Hill admitted later: "We hit the woodwork twice and we could have won it, but that wouldn't have been fair on Rotherham, who had more of the play.

"But my players showed resilience throughout and deserved something from the game."

They certainly did after a storming start and a big finish.

Fotiadis fired an early warning to Rotherham after just 90 seconds and Stein almost opened his account for Hatters minutes later when he flicked inches over the bar after a left-wing cross by Matthew Taylor.

Seconds later Hatters were in front when Fotiadis cleverly side-stepped Guy Branston after Taylor's pass to fire



GOAL: Andrew Fotiadis.

into the corner. Hatters were jubilant and went looking for a second goal.

Taylor had a long-range effort saved and Fotiadis headed just over.

After 26 minutes Stein went close with an overhead kick after Fotiadis had nodded on Andre Scarlett's cross.

Rotherham had to wait until the 42nd minute for their first real chance and should have equalised.

Robins sent over a

right-wing cross and Leo Fortune-West somehow managed to head wide with the goal at his mercy.

Rotherham stepped up the pace after the interval and, after surviving Stein's woodwork scare in the 61st minute, pulled level.

Mark Ovendale managed to palm away Paul Hurst's shot, only for Robins to step in and score.

Then Talbot should have scored from a Robins' cross and Ovendale was again forced to save from Hurst in the 83rd minute.

A minute later Kandol rapped the woodwork from a George flick-on as Hatters staged a grandstand finish.

George burst through, only to have his left-foot shot pushed for a corner, and Kandol was inches wide with another effort.

match facts

ROTHERHAM 1 LUTON 1

● **ROTHERHAM:** Ian Gray, Paul Hurst, Kevin Watson, Marvin Bryan, Leo Fortune-West, Guy Branston, Mark Robins, Brian Wilsterman, Stewart Talbot, Darren Garner (Andy Monkhouse, 45), Paul Warne (Trevor Berry, 87). Subs not used: Paul Pettinger, John Varty, Danny Hudson.

● **LUTON:** Mark Ovendale, Adam Locke, Julian Watts, Emmerson Boyce, Matthew Taylor, Peter Holmes (Dean Brennan, 65), Andre Scarlett, Matthew Spring, Paul McLaren, Andrew Fotiadis (Tresor Kandol, 45), Mark Stein (Liam George, 81). Subs not used: Nathan Abbey, Jude Stirling.

● **Shots on target:** Rotherham 9 Luton 6. **Off target:** Rotherham 3 Luton 3.

● **Corners:** Rotherham 7 Luton 4.

● **Top Hatter:** Andrew Fotiadis.



Ricky's verdict

THE lads showed resilience. We're a young side but we're getting there. In some ways, we could regard it as two points lost, having hit the woodwork twice. But a Luton win would have been unfair on Rotherham. They had the lion's share of the match after our good start. The early goal was a real boost but, for a while, we stopped doing the things we had been doing early on. It took us 25 minutes to start playing again. We pulled Fotiadis off as a precautionary measure after a hamstring pull.