

# Oxford Action

00/01



Oxford United 0 Luton Town 0 ■ Half time: 0-0 ■ Attendance: 4,531 ■ Report by Dave Nash



Oxford United @  
Luton Town @  
Nationwide League Division Two

*In many ways the events which immediately followed this goalless draw were more significant than the match or the rather unsatisfactory result. Pre-match, fans' interest was centred on the acquisition of an ex premier ship defender of some pedigree in Andy Linighan . With Luton just above Oxford in the table the game was always likely to be tense and dour.... And so it proved! Linighan replaced Murphy with the system changing to 5-3-2.*

The first half saw few chances created at either end. Linighan undoubtedly strengthened and organised the defence but the nearest the home side came to scoring was when Whitehead followed up his own blocked shot to drive a low shot against the post via keeper Abbey's outstretched finger tips. Luton created a couple of half chances - a last ditch tackle by Linighan and a last gap clearance by Jarman saving the day for United.

H-T: 0-0

For much of the second half the game followed a similar pattern with Oxford struggling to create much, though Derek Lilley hit the bar with an opportunist cross- shot when cutting in from the right wing.

After 70 minutes Paul Tait , who had once again played with admirable determination in midfield, was forced to withdraw with what turned out to be a serious leg injury. He was replaced by Robertson, whilst Omoyinmi came on for Cook. During the last period of the game, Luton took control of midfield and Oxford's goal came under increasing pressure.

Knight was forced to perform heroics, saving magnificently from Taylor, Stein, Spring and Brennan, but he reserves the best for a reaction save from a close range toe poke by Boyce following a corner. Luton also make a couple of good chances as the Oxford goal led a charmed life. When the final whistle came, the point could be considered a point gained rather than two lost, but in Oxford's position we desperately need some victories, especially in our home games.

The game was followed by a notable and impassioned tannoy address by the chairman, Mr Kassam. It was greeted with considerable applause not least when he informed the fans of a likely press conference for Thursday, at which he hoped to make a couple of exciting announcements. The supporters went home that little bit happier and more optimistic than they otherwise might have been.

Derek Lilley is closely tracked



Andy Linighan is outnumbered in the Hatters' penalty area



Last gasp defending denies Dean Whitehead

