

Luton Town 3 Wrexham 4
THE Hatters contrived to throw away all three points after building a three goal lead early in the second half.

Comeback kids Wrexham however, never stopped attacking from first to last and deserved their second 4-3 away win of the season by handling the treacherous underfoot conditions by far the better.

The enterprising North Wales outfit, kept at bay by some great goalkeeping and desperate defending before the interval, could have had five before Luton scored. The Town raced into a three goal lead courtesy of a wonderful Mark Stein header, Julian Watts and Liam George but the Welshmen simply would not be denied.

They pulled two goals back through Craig Faulconbridge and Chris Killen in four minutes around the hour mark, equalised with a cracking Martyn Chalk shot eight minutes from time and earned the winner with a beautifully worked Darren Ferguson goal four minutes later.

Last week's goalscoring hero Stuart Douglas' hamstring injury kept him out, but Andrew Fotiadis made his return in his place and another hamstring sufferer Marvin Johnson made his reappearance in the home defence.

An early free kick tested Tanny Abbey, who turned over Ferguson's shot and the keeper had to be alert to collect from a short corner move.

Abbey then made a great save from a fierce Paul Barrett volley and then matched that from Ferguson's angled shot.

Blocks from Johnson, Emmerson Boyce and Watts thwarted more goal bound Wrexham efforts and Faulconbridge led the home team off when he missed a good chance having been allowed too much time to turn close to goal.

Luton's first attack worthy of the name could have put them in front after 20 minutes. Matthew Taylor's fast low cross was met by Mark Stein under challenge and his touch flew narrowly wide of the back post.

At the other end a super break from defence by the visitors looked certain to bear fruit until Paul McLaren made an inspired flying intervention.

The Hatters took the lead on 38 minutes through Stein, who produced a wonderful near post header from Friedrich Breitenfelder's first time cross stop. The

So generous Town throw it all away

young Austrian is fast becoming a favourite at Kenilworth Road.

Four minutes later some lovely passing by McLaren, Breitenfelder and George won a corner on the right. Peter Holme's flag kick, was met by Julian Watts and his touch saw the ball home.

When the influential McLaren limped off two minutes into the second half, the feeling was that he would be missed, but that thought faded when Luton scored a third.

A Stein shot hit Mark McGregor, the rebound was knocked back in, but Kevin Dearden couldn't hold on and George was quick to smash the ball into the roof of the net.

Abbey made a blinding save to preserve the Town lead after 57 minutes when Chalk hit a power drive in from close range, but a minute later he could only palm Faulconbridge's effort onto a post and it went in.

The striker then made an opening for Chris Killen who strode on into the box to leave Abbey without a chance with his shot.

Conditions were deteriorating fast with water splashing up in places on a soggy pitch, and the Welshmen were thriving in the rain.

Chalk's power drive in the 82nd minute when a clearing header fell to him was too good for Abbey and Ferguson completed the comeback when he played a couple of neat one-twos through a static Hatters defence four minutes later and controlled well to go on and coolly slot passed Abbey.

Luton Town: Abbey, Breitenfelder, Johnson, Boyce, Watts, Taylor, McLaren (Fraser 47), Holmes, George, Fotiadis (Tomson 70), Stein. Subs not used Brennan, Baptiste, Ovendale.

Attendance: 5341.

Luton Man of the Match: Tanny Abbey



■ Mark Stein heads Luton into a 16th minute lead yesterday at Kenilworth Road



■ Julian Watts scrambles Luton's second goal.