

It's super Matt

MATTHEW Taylor scored a magnificent late goal to give Luton Town a priceless 1-0 win against Cambridge United last night

The 19-year-old wing back's extraordinary 40-yard strike on 86 minutes secured victory in a tight encounter and gave the Hatters a real boost in their fight against relegation.

Hatters boss Joe Kinnear re-called Lee Mansell, Matthew Spring and Stuart Douglas to his starting line-up with 'flu victim Adam Locke, Mark Stein and Julian Watts dropping out of the side that drew 0-0 with Bristol Rovers on Saturday.

Paul McLaren, who retained the captain's armband despite Spring's return, switched back to defence and Nathan Abbey continued in goal with Mark Ovendale still suffering from a shoulder injury.

Cambridge included ex-Hatters Scott Oakes and John Dreyer in their side, with John Taylor, another former Kenilworth Road player, on the bench.

Spring signalled his return with a well-struck volley that cleared Lionel Perez's crossbar by inches after just 24 seconds.

Emmerson Boyce then charged into the visitor's penalty box on four minutes before his pass was collected by Liam George, who swivelled and fired over.

Oakes earned the derision of the home crowd on 15 minutes when his woeful freekick not only cleared Abbey's crossbar but ended up on the roof of the Kenilworth Road end!

Cambridge's only other real threat before the break came from long Tom Cowan throw-ins which the Hatters defence dealt with ably.

Chances were also rare at the other

Amazing goal earns three priceless points



**Luton Town 1
Cambridge 0**
**Dave Flett on last
night's match at
Kenilworth Road**

end but George wasted the best opportunity of a poor half with the game's first shot on target after 30 minutes.

Keith Rowland's neat pass gave George a clear run on goal but the 22-year-old striker dithered and allowed Perez to block his route to goal.

Kinnear reverted to a three-pronged attack for the second half with substitute Watts playing as an emergency striker alongside fellow replacement Andrew Fotiadis and George.

But it was Cambridge who had the earliest chances to end the deadlock after the break.

Cowan's 50th-minute header was comfortably gathered by Abbey and the Luton keeper also kept out Riza's firm shot moments later.

Veteran striker John Taylor, an early replacement for the injured Ritchie Humphreys, then wasted a golden opportunity to score against his old club.

Taylor peeled away from his marker Boyce but headed wide from six yards after meeting Ian Ashbee's cross.

Alex Russell and Ashbee then both saw curling efforts just miss the target and, on 80 minutes, Abbey pulled off a brilliant point-blank save to deny Neil Mustoe.

The Hatters had not managed a second-half shot on target until 86 minutes when Taylor scored his terrific match winner.

Substitute Stein chased a hopeful long ball upfield and Perez appeared to have cleared the danger when he raced off his line.

But the French goalkeeper's clearance was returned brilliantly into the unguarded net by Taylor who was almost 40 yards from goal just inside the touchline.

big match line-up

● **LUTON TOWN:** Nathan Abbey, Emmerson Boyce, Paul McLaren, Richard Dryden, Petri Helin, Lee Mansell, Matthew Spring, Keith Rowland, (Julian Watts, 46), Matthew Taylor, Liam George, Stuart Douglas (Andrew Fotiadis, 46, Mark Stein, 84).
Subs: Jude Stirling, Scott Ward.

● **CAMBRIDGE UNITED:** Lionel Perez, Tom Cowan, Marc Joseph, Nell Mustoe, Andy Duncan, Omar Riza, John Dreyer, Scott Oakes (Alex Russell, 46), Paul Wanless, Ian Ashbee, Ritchie Humphreys (John Taylor, 6).
Subs: John Taylor, Steve McAnespie, Dan Chillingworth, Shaun Marshall.

Referee: Ray Olivier (West Midlands)

● Attendance: 6,370.

● Luton top player: Matthew Taylor

Wads and Dowie night



DATE: Waddock.

FORMER Luton Town players Gary Waddock and Iain Dowie are the Hatters Supporters Club's next guest speakers on Thursday, March 15.

Waddock and Dowie will be available for questions from 7.30pm in the Eric Morecambe Suite.

The Supporters Club are selling joint tickets for the event to include the March 29 "Evening with Mike Watson-Challis".

A joint ticket costs £3 for

club members and £7 for non-members.

Single tickets for the Watson-Challis evening will only be available subject to availability after the Waddock and Dowie night.

● Town on Tour are running buses to Millwall on Saturday with an 11.30am departure from Kenilworth Road.

Prices for the trip are £8.50 for adult members, £7.50 for juniors and £9.50 for non-members.