

Fotiadis finally repays Kinnear's faith in him

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Luton 2 Cheltenham 1

By Jimmy Renshaw

FOR NEARLY an hour, Cheltenham looked as though they might steal victory which could have lifted them off the bottom of the Second Division.

But for the second consecutive game, they proved unable to hold onto a lead and Luton, without playing at their best, were able to collect their fourth consecutive league win.

Cheltenham boss Graham Allner said: "We seemed to be struggling to hold a lead. Early in the second half, Luton got an equaliser and there was a touch of panic about our defending. We had done well in the first half and in the second, we needed to settle a bit but we couldn't."

Goalkeeper Steve Book kept out Luton's eager forwards in a first half dominated by Luton despite the fact that Cheltenham stole the lead on 12 minutes with an excellent strike by Russell Milton.

Luton, already beset by injuries, had to re-organise as first midfielder Paul Hughes

and then defender Alan Neilson limped off the pitch to join a lengthy injury list.

Manager Joe Kinnear was forced to change tactics and for the second half, he switched to a 4-4-3 with Dean Crowe sent on as the third striker.

It worked although it needed defender Chris Coyne to move up field to fire a 54th-minute equaliser, aided by a couple of slight deflections in a crowded penalty area.

Andrew Fotiadis, one of the culprits in Luton's earlier failure to convert their chances, made amends by snatching the winner after 69 minutes.

His manager said: "I heard the crowd shouting for him to be taken off when he missed a chance just before he scored. They need to have patience and they seemed to forget that he scored last week."

Kinnear added: "Four wins on the trot is very satisfying and I am pleased with this win considering the side I had to put out. I barely had 11 fit players so there was always going to be hiccups in the team performance."