

# Famous 5!

## LUTON TOWN 3 LEYTON ORIENT 0

DAVE FLETT reports from  
Kenilworth Road

LUTON Town have won five successive league games for the first time in more than 20 years following last night's impressive victory over Leyton Orient.

The Hatters last enjoyed such a run in November, 1981 and Joe Kinnear's men are now close to becoming cast-iron certainties for promotion from Division Three this season.

Goals by Chris Coyne, Dean Crowe and Adrian Forbes also saw the Hatters keep the pressure on Plymouth Argyle at the top of the table.

Forbes returned to the Hatters strike force after missing Saturday's 1-0 victory at Torquay because of suspension.

He replaced on-loan Gary McSwegan, who dropped to the substitutes' bench alongside Marvin Johnson.

Jean-Louis Valois was preferred to Johnson, with Croatian midfielder Ahmet Brkovic missing out on an opportunity to face his former club because of an ankle injury.

His absence gave Paul Hughes a place in the starting line-up, while Orient included former Hatters trialist Matthew Brazier on the left-wing.

Brazier made a telling early contribution for the visitors when his accurate third-minute cross found Scott Canham unmarked in the penalty box, but the Orient midfielder headed wide of Carl Emberson's goal.

Orient skipper Dean Smith

### match facts

●LUTON TOWN: Carl Emberson, Alan Neilson, Russell Perrett, Chris Coyne, Matthew Taylor, Paul Hughes, Kevin Nicholls (sub 61 mins, David Bayliss), Matthew Spring, Jean-Louis Valois (sub 74 mins, Marvin Johnson), Dean Crowe (sub 88 mins, Gary McSwegan), Adrian Forbes. Other subs: Mark Ovendale, Emmerson Boyce.

●LEYTON ORIENT: Scott Barrett, Matthew Lockwood, Dean Smith, David McGhee, Andy Harris, Kevin Nugent (sub 69 mins, Steve Watts), John Martin (sub 67 mins, Neil Gough), Ilyseden Christie (sub 85 mins, Aaron McLean), Matthew Brazier, Carl Hutchings, Scott Canham. Other subs: Ashley Bayes, David Partridge.

●Referee: Clive Penton (Sussex).

●Attendance: 6,683.

●Top Hatter: Chris Coyne.

was equally as wasteful moments later from six yards, heading wide after meeting Canham's free-kick from the right.

Hughes volleyed harmlessly wide from the edge of the area on 26 minutes before Ilyseden Christie fired a more convincing effort off target from 30 yards at the other end.

The Hatters dominated possession in the early exchanges, with captain Kevin Nicholls bossing the midfield, but Orient continued to create the better chances, with Emberson saving another close-range Smith header on 30 minutes.

Crowe's curling shot was the Hatters' first on target effort after 35 minutes, but it was comfortably saved by Scott Barrett.

The Orient keeper was beaten seconds later when Nicholls' free-kick from the right sailed over the heads of the Orient defence and found Coyne at the far post.

He controlled the ball expertly before firing a low volley into the bottom corner from 10 yards.

Christie's bouncing shot was easily saved by Emberson early in the second-half and the Hatters doubled the lead on 49 minutes when a relieved Crowe ended his 10-game goal drought.

Crowe shot low between Barrett and an upright from six yards after Nicholls and Forbes had combined to release him in the penalty box.

Midfield inspiration Nicholls limped out of the action on 61 minutes after struggling valiantly to shrug off an earlier knock picked up in a clash that earned Orient striker Kevin Nugent a yellow card.

David Bayliss replaced Nicholls as boss Kinnear briefly switched to a three centre-back formation.

The Hatters made the points safe on 66 minutes when Valois' corner was half-cleared and Coyne's controlled hook back into the box found Forbes, who gathered the ball before driving low past Barrett.

Matthew Spring then had an excellent effort ruled out by an offside flag and David McGhee should have grabbed a consolation goal for the visitors but headed wide of a gaping goal as Emberson failed to punch clear.

Crowe almost added a fourth goal late on, forcing Barrett to a fine save. He was then substituted by McSwegan.

Talk of the Town - pages 78 & 79.



**ACTION STATIONS:** Recalled Jean-Louis Valois in the thick of it for Hatters against Leyton Orient at Kenilworth Road last night.

Picture: JANE SHERLOCK