



Hatters bow to Duke Ellington

02/03
(FAC)

UNDER-STRENGTH Luton were unceremoniously dumped out of the FA Cup by a sensational show of strike power from Wigan's cup hero Nathan Ellington.

The striker had scored two in the shock win over Fulham in mid-week, which put them in the quarter finals, and his magnificent brace yesterday finished off an injury-ravaged Hatters' cup ambitions.

Manager Joe Kinnear was forced to name four youth team players on the bench and Luton were cast as underdogs from the outset.

Kinnear desperately wanted to make further progress in this competition but he had no Tony Thorpe or Sol Davis through injury, no top scorer Steve Howard or captain Kevin Nicholls due to suspension, and no Cedric Berthelin. The French goalkeeper has left Kenilworth Road because the board cannot find the cash to offer him a permanent contract.

Despite their selection problems, Luton controlled the first half only to collapse after the break at a sparsely-populated JJB stadium.

The game got off to a sluggish start from both teams with Luton's makeshift XI having the early run of the game against a Wigan side still recovering from the Fulham game.

With just Andrew Fotiadis – the only available striker – up front, Luton set their stall out to attack on the break and defend in numbers.

But the opening half hour saw Luton the more likely to score.

On 18 minutes a Alan Kimble free kick found Chris Coyne in the box but the defender's header was weak and easily saved by fellow-Aussie John Filan.

Busy Ahmet Brkovic also had a good chance on 23 minutes when a Steve Robinson cross flashed across the penalty area and found the Croatian 18 yards out. His volley went straight at Filan.

The best chance of a pretty dire first half fell to the recalled Peter Holmes on 30 minutes. A counter-attack led by Robinson released the overlapping Kimble who crossed to Fotiadis in the box. The striker duly nodded downwards to Holmes on the penalty spot. The midfielder did the hard work with some excellent control and a cheeky lob over his marker to leave him with the 'keeper to beat. But his left foot volley somehow went wide.

Wigan took full advantage by opening the scoring on 36 minutes against the run of play.

A throw-in to Ellington just outside the area looked to pose little threat. But his sharp turn left marker Coyne on the floor and gave the skilful striker sight of goal. His clinical finish went into the bottom corner.

The Hatters went looking for an instant reply with an Emmerson Boyce dribble beating two men to get him into the area. He blasted a shot against the 'keeper and all Luton had for reward was a corner.

Luton more than held their own in the early stages of the second half but never looked like scoring.

A long range shot from captain Matthew Spring and a Brkovic header which went wide were positive signs but on 63 minutes man-of-the-moment finished Luton off.

Some neat one touch football in midfield gave Ellington the chance to peel off from Kimble. His run was spotted by Tony Dinning who lobbed the ball forward for Ellington. The striker saw Emberson poorly positioned and back-peddling and from the edge of the box



■ **Losing battle: Andrew Fotiadis (above) was a lone striker for the Hatters yesterday**
Right: Emmerson Boyce is held back as Matthew Judge makes a forward run

scored with an absolute screamer into the top left hand corner.

Already chasing the game, Luton introduced teenage striker Matthew Judge to try to spark some life into the attack.

Despite showing some nice touches, Judge's only telling contribution was a booking in the 89th minute.

By then the game was well and truly over after second half substitute Mike Slynne scored the Hatters' third on 83 minutes.

Some poor marking allowed Slynne to head home from Dinning's free kick and put Wigan's name into the hat for the third round.

Kinnear was disappointed to be out of the competition. "We did well in the first half and considering my four top strikers missing, we did okay."

Following the departure of Berthelin, Kinnear said: "I cannot get anybody in on loan and I have got to sell before I can buy."

"I have been told to make cutbacks but where from I don't know."



MATCH FACTS



LUTON TOWN (4-5-1): Emberson; Kimble, Coyne, Neilson, Boyce; Robinson, Spring, Holmes (Hillier 67m), Hughes, Brkovic; Fotiadis (Judge 67)
Subs not used: Beckwith, Foley, Mansell

Referee: H Webb

GOALSCORERS:

Wigan: Ellington (36, 63), Flynn (83)
Luton: -

SHOTS ON TARGET

Wigan: 4
Luton: 4

SHOTS OFF TARGET

Wigan: 5
Luton: 4

CORNERS

Wigan: 1
Luton: 4

OFFSIDE

Wigan: 1
Luton: 3

BOOKINGS

Wigan: Jarrett (65)
Luton: Holmes (67), Neilson (77) Judge (89)

ATTENDANCE: 4,454

HATTERS' STAR MAN: EMMERSON BOYCE

Exciting runs and a reasonable game

FA Cup 2nd round results

Blackpool	3	Torquay	1
Bristol Rovers	1	Rochdale	1
Cambridge	2	Northampton	2
Crewe	3	Mansfield	0
Darlington	4	Stevenage	1
Exeter	3	Rushden D	1
Margate	0	Cardiff	3
Macclesfield	L	Vauxhall	L
Morecambe	3	Chester	2
Oldham	1	Cheltenham	2
Scunthorpe	0	Carlisle	0
Shrewsbury	3	Barrow	1
Southend	1	Bournemouth	1
Southport	0	Farnborough	3
Stockport	0	Plymouth	3
Crawley	1	Dagenham	2
Wigan	3	LUTON	0
York	1	Brentford	2

