

'We'll take it on the chin' - Parkinson

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By Carl Marston

COLCHESTER United manager Phil Parkinson insisted that his team had to take yesterday's blow "on the chin" following a 5-0 debacle at the hands of Luton Town.

The U's superb recent run was brought to a grinding halt by the Hatters, who plundered four goals before half time.

"There is a very small dividing line between being a good team and a bad team and we crossed that line today," admitted Parkinson.

"We played like a bad team today. It was a bad day at the office, but we will bounce back. We will take it on the chin and move on.

"The goals lifted Luton, and I thought we looked very tired after going two or three goals down. It was disappointing, but it just shows that there is not much to choose between success and failure. It just takes one or two players to be not quite mentally right, or focused.

"We've still had a fantastic run. We've only been beaten twice in 16 matches," added Parkinson.

The U's boss refused to heap too much blame on keeper Richard McKinney, even though the Irishman was directly responsible for three of Luton's goals.

"Richard did not have a great day, and he's the first to admit that," said Parkinson.

"But he has been excellent for us in recent matches, and I'm not going to chastise players for making mistakes. It's how they react to them that counts. They must show mental toughness.

"Individual errors cost us goals, but I'm not going to pick on individuals and take them to pieces over one performance.

"I'd like to think that I will never be beaten by that score at home again, while I'm a manager. I think it's the biggest beating at home that I've been involved in.

"But I'm confident that we will come out with all guns blazing in our next match at Wycombe on Saturday," concluded Parkinson.



TACKLE: Colchester's Kem Izzet in action yesterday at Layer Road

Photo: CLIFFORD HICKS