



LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

Hatters Player Watch Showunmi fails to use his head

LUTON'S new non-contract signing Enoch Showunmi was handed his full league debut by Hatters boss Mike Newell on Saturday.

Showunmi started up front in place of the suspended Steve Howard.

But it was a big ask for the 21-year-old as he tried to adapt from the pace of non-league football to Nationwide Division Two action. Here's how Showunmi fared:

- Time on pitch: 40 minutes.
- Shots on target: 0
- Shots off: 0
- Shots blocked: 0
- Passes to own player: 4
- Passes to opposition: 1
- Pass completion rate: 80 per cent.
- Tackles won/interceptions: 3
- Tackles lost: 1
- Free-kicks won: 0
- Free-kicks conceded: 7
- Headers won: 2
- Headers lost: 12
- Drabbles ball retained: 1
- Drabbles ball lost: 1
- Dribble completion rate: 50 per cent.
- Cresses: 1

● **Bookings/sendings off:** 1 VERDICT: Shownmi battled gamely if a little awkward, but looked like he was out of the pace of the game. The seven free-kicks he gave away were more due to clumsiness than any malice on his part. He didn't shy from the action, but even with his greater height, he lost most of the aerial duels to his smaller marker Paul Wotton.

NEWELL'S VIEW: "He didn't really get much of a chance out there and he was given no help by the referee at all. How you can get booked when someone heads you in the back of the head is just no idea. We had to take him off because we didn't want him to get a red card."



Picture: Gareth Owen

ON ME 'EAD SON: Gary McSheffrey gets ahead of Paul Wotton to meet Kevin Foley's right-wing cross and nod Hatters into the lead.

Plymouth arrrrgggg-gyle!

PLYMOUTH manager Paul Sturrock admitted he would have been pig-sick if he were the Luton manager on Saturday.

And Hatters fans were certainly snorting in frustration after watching their side come so close to victory at Home Park.

Comfortably protecting a one-goal lead courtesy of Gary McSheffrey's 58th minute header, the Town looked to be heading for a welcome three points.

With leading scorer Steve Howard suspended for the Hatters, in stepped the untried Enoch Showunmi to make his league debut alongside loan signing McSheffrey up front.

Ahmet Brkovic retained his place on the left-side of midfield after Newell decided not to extend Courtney Pitt's loan signing because of the Portsmouth man's continuing Achilles and hamstring problem. Aussie defender Chris Coyne took the captain's armband.

Luton started brightly and David Bayliss' third minute header from

Pilgrims late show frustrates Hatters

Matthew Spring corner was cleared off the line by Graham Coughlan.

Plymouth responded when a 20-yard free-kick from Lee Hodges took a deflection in the fifth minute and Robert Beck with did well to gather.

Becks was then quickly off his line to smother at the feet of Dave Norris in the 14th minute after the Plymouth midfielder outpaced Coyne to latch on to a through ball from Paul Wotton.

Showunmi, who struggled to impose himself for the Hatters, entered the referees' book after a series of clumsy fouls on Wotton. And he was then withdrawn in the 40th minute for Dean Crowe when another foul resulted in a long talking to from referee Tony Bates.

Luton then made a second substitution before half-time; Ian Hillier replacing Bayliss who suffered a hip injury. McSheffrey should have given the

Hatters the lead in the 49th minute when his wonderful step-over fooled Coughlan after Hillier's pass. But with just goalkeeper Luke McCormick to beat he fired over from eight yards.

However, McSheffrey made amends in the 58th minute when his harrying caused Wotton to give away a throw on the right-hand side. Crowe's resulting cross was blocked, but when Foley whipped in the rebound McSheffrey jumped ahead of his marker to flick a header into the far corner of the goal.

Friio almost equalised three minutes later when his 20-yard shot was

NEWELL'S VERDICT

"I THOUGHT we had the game won. The players did everything we asked of them.

"There's not a lot I can say to them apart from they didn't keep it going for 90 minutes and that they could have defended a bit better from set-pieces and crosses.

"I don't think Plymouth raised their game. I wasn't impressed with them at all.

deflected narrowly wide, but the Hatters composed themselves and played some controlled passing football.

However, Luton began defending deeper and the leveller came in the 82nd minute when Friio sent Dave Worrell clear down the right. The full-back had plenty of time to pick out Evans who headed home to Beckwith's left, giving the young Luton stopper no chance.

Friio heaped on the misery in injury time when he flicked home Wotton's free-kick from the left.

STAR HATTER: Matthew Spring. He ran the show in midfield.

Evans 82
Frio 90

McShaffery 58

McShaffery 42

6 yd

18 yd

Outside

18 yd

When Scored Per Age

Latin Town's Scorers

Steve Howard

Tony Thorpe

Gary McShaffery

Kevin Nichols

Alan Nelson

Courteney Pitt

Matthew Spring

Chris Coyne

Kevin Foley

Seasonal Progress Chart

League Meetings

Plymouth

Notts County

Hartlepool

Brighton

Grimsby

Stockport

Win when behind

Drawn when behind

Lost when ahead

Drawn when ahead

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