

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH 2003

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
ATTENDANCE: 8,339

LUTON TOWN

1

MCSHEFFREY 60

TEAM: Beckwith, Boyce, Davis, Coyne, Bayliss, Spring, Brkovic, Leary, Foley, Howard, McSheffrey (Pitt, 88)

Unused subs: Forbes, Hillier, Mansell, Brill

Bookings: Bayliss, Foley, Leary

Sent off: -



MAN OF THE MATCH ARTHUR GNOHERE

A solid game in defence and created another attacking option from set pieces. Was powerful in the air and looked comfortable on the ball.

QPR

1

FURLONG 90

TEAM: Day, Edghill, Padula, Gnohere, Shittu, Palmer (Bircham, 77), Rowlands (Thorpe, 65), Bean, McLeod (Ainsworth, 65), Gallen, Furlong

Unused subs: Forbes, Culkin

Bookings: Bean, Furlong, Gnohere, Thorpe

Sent off: -



OLLIE'S VERDICT

"If you can get a point after a performance like that it's the sign of a half decent team. I thought our defending was good but our passing could have been better."

Rangers fought it out to the end to take a point deep into injury time through a Paul Furlong strike at Kenilworth Road. Rangers went a goal behind in the 60th minute, but Furlong's timely finish after a fine touch by Tony Thorpe, silenced the home fans who had jeered Thorpe at every touch since coming on as substitute.

Rangers boss Ian Holloway brought Richard Edghill into the starting lineup at right back, while Gareth Ainsworth made way for Martin Rowlands who pushed up into the right of midfield.

Luton started the match in full swing, and in the 11th minute Luton's Steve Howard was released by a telling ball over the top of the Rangers defence. Dan Shittu wrestled his body between the towering forward and the ball, hacking the ball away to safety.

Two minutes later Rangers had a goal disallowed for off-side, as Paul Furlong hammered the ball home from 10 yards out.

Luton Town were starting to fight their way into dominance, and on 15 minutes Ahmet Brkovic took the ball under control, hitting it goal-bound on the volley - and only a full stretch save by Chris Day could deny Luton an early lead.

A free-kick from McSheffrey from 35 yards rattled the woodwork with only seven minutes of the half remaining - Day was at full stretch, but the cross bar saw his effort away.

Rangers started the second half with intent, pressing with rejuvenated promise. Bean played

Furlong down the line, and the bustling striker did well to keep the ball in, drawing Robert Beckwith from his goal. Furlong cut the ball back to McLeod, whose cross won a corner - rather than finding the head of a Rangers player.

But Luton had intentions of their own. Chances were coming thick and fast - and the Hatters breakthrough did finally come with 30 minutes remaining.

Steve Howard collected the ball from the Luton flanks, steadied and fired, with his shot taking a deflection off the back of McSheffrey, wrong footing Day and giving the Hatters a 1-0 lead. McSheffrey was later credited with the goal.

Three minutes later Brkovic had too much time to run his line across the penalty box, Day was on hand to beat his strike away.

Holloway rang the changes, Thorpe came on for Rowlands, and Ainsworth for McLeod. And Thorpe's reception was anything but pleasant by the home crowd. Palmer then made way for Marc Bircham, as Rangers fought to at least take a point.

Furlong earned himself a 81st minute caution for persistent fouling according to the referee, but the Rangers hit-man was focused on the job ahead.

And fittingly it was Thorpe's telling pass which fell invitingly for Furlong, who beat off his defender, who had initially looked to have won the challenge. But Furlong got in around him, controlled the ball, and slotted home.





"KEVIN MCLEOD LAID THE BALL IN THE PATH OF THE BIG STRIKER AND HE FIRED IT PAST BROWN."