

Town make it a real thriller

SWINDON 2 LUTON TOWN 2

SIMON LAMBERT reports from The County Ground

MAKESHIFT Hatters had Sol Davis sent off for violent conduct but two goals in two minutes early in the second-half stunned high-flying Swindon before they snatched a late equaliser.

The Robins were looking to get back into the top two and scored after just six minutes through James Milner.

But, in an explosive start to the second-half, two players were sent off and Hatters scored twice to turn the game on its head. First to go was Swindon's Stefani Miglioranzzi - then Luton's Davis received a straight red for violent conduct.

A twice-taken penalty by Gary McSheffrey and a goal by Adrian Forbes put Hatters in front, only for substitute Brian Howard to pull Swindon level.

Hatters boss Mike Newell, who was banished from the dug-out after a 28th minute protest, made four changes from the side

big match facts

SWINDON TOWN: Rhys Evans, Jerel Ifil, Matthew Hewlett, Andy Gurney, Sammy Igoe, Tommy Mooney, Stefani Miglioranzzi, David Duke, James Milner, Matthew Heywood, Adrian Viveash. Subs: Bart Glemink, Jon Stevenson, Brian Howard, Steve Robinson, Alan Reeves.

LUTON TOWN: Robert Beckwith,

Kevin Foley, Chris Coyne, Emmerson Boyce, Sol Davis, Paul Hughes, Courtney Pitt, Gary McSheffrey, Russell Perrett, Adrian Forbes, Steve Robinson. Subs: Dean Brill, Ian Hillier, Lee Mansell, Enoch Showunmi, Michael Leary.

REFEREE: Paul Danson.

ATTENDANCE: 7,573.

thumped at Oldham. Out went Ian Hillier, Michael Leary, Ahmet Brkovic and star striker Howard, suffering from a groin strain.

Replacing them were Russell Perrett, Forbes, Steve Robinson and fit-again Kevin Foley, who was celebrating his call-up to the Republic of Ireland under 21 squad this week.

Swindon soon demonstrated why their season has got off to such a great start, dominating possession and breaking up Luton's play.

And, after only six minutes, Hatters were punished when ex-Kenilworth Road loan player Sammy Igoe made a darting run from midfield to deliver an inch-perfect

cross to teenager Milner, waiting in the box.

Milner headed past Robert Beckwith to give Swindon the lead and, clearly shaken by the early goal, Hatters found themselves pegged back.

They struggled to string together the passing moves that had served them so well in earlier matches.

Courtney Pitt almost dragged Luton back into it with a 20th minute free-kick from 30 yards out, but the ball flashed just over the bar.

Paul Hughes battled well to try and win the ball and McSheffrey made some promising runs, but Luton lacked attacking creativity.

The frustration clearly got to boss Newell, who was red-carded by referee Paul Danson after complaining bitterly about Hughes' booking for a typically strong tackle in the 28th minute.

Luton were handed a one-man advantage just 60 seconds into the second-half when Swindon's Miglioranzzi received his marching orders when Danson booked him for the second time for delaying a free-kick.

Tempers started to fray and the teams were soon equal when Danson showed Davis a straight red card on 53 minutes after he lashed out with his arm at Milner to make it two players sent off in just seven minutes.

Luton's own on-loan star McSheffrey provided the talking point of the match when he converted a penalty awarded after Adrian Viveash fouled him.

Controversy surrounded McSheffrey's goal as Danson enraged Swindon by ordering the striker's first spot-kick to be retaken. Hatters celebrated a double dose of good fortune when just three minutes later the ball fell to Forbes in the box and he struck it firmly home.