

Cool McSheffrey sinks Chairboys

03/04

LUTON3

McSheffrey (76, 89), Perrett 85

WYCOMBE1

Brown (49) pen

BY PHIL CAMMACK

THREE Luton goals in the last 24 minutes turned the game on its head and left Wycombe's caretaker manager John Gorman wondering why his men had not snatched their first away win of the season.

Luton were out of sorts for much of the game and Wycombe, without a victory in their last 11 matches, showed stolid defence leaving the Hatters with barely a chance at the goal.

Wycombe had the day's first lucky break four minutes into the second half when Luton midfielder Courtney Pitt was adjudged to have fouled Danny Senda. Home protests failed to move referee Richard Beeby and Steve Brown converted the penalty.

Twenty minutes later Gorman sent on substitute Richard Harris and with almost his first touch he found himself clear on goal. But his 20-yard drive lacked power and 17-year-old goalkeeper Dean Brill, on his League debut, made a comfortable save.

Luton's substitutions were more effective.

On 73 minutes manager Mike Newell withdrew midfielder Steve Robinson and striker Adrian Forbes.

Enoch Showunmi, playing on trial without pay, injected enthusiasm into Luton's attack but the day's second lucky break

LUTON	WYCOMBE
54	Possession % 46
9	Corners 1
2	Offsides 6
12	Fouls 18
1	Yellows 4
0	Reds 0
9	Shots On 4
8	Shots Off 1
0	Hit Woodwork 0

LUTON: Brill 7, Boyce 7, Coyne 7, Perrett 7, Davis 7, Spring 8, Robinson 7 (Mansell 74), Pitt 8, Hughes 7, Forbes 6 (Showunmi 74), McSheffrey 9.

WYCOMBE: Talia 6, Senda 6, Thomson 5, Branston 5, Vinnicombe 6, Currie 6 (Mapes 86), Bulman 6, Simpson 6, Brown 6, Ryan 6 (Bell 80), Holligan 7 (Harris 66).

gave Luton an unexpected equaliser. Defender Sol Davis knocked over an innocuous low centre but as Andy Thomson made contact for the clearance Gary McSheffrey stuck up a boot and the ball ricocheted into the net.

McSheffrey, on loan from Coventry, claimed it as his seventh goal of the season.

It transformed Luton and suddenly confidence returned.

Centre-half Russell Perrett rose at the far post to score from an 84th-minute corner and in the final minute McSheffrey showed he has skill as well as good fortune with a top-class curling drive for Luton's third.

Newell said: "We have got to be pleased with that result but it was a bit of a frustrating afternoon.

"We were struggling because we were carrying players who are not 100% fit. Wycombe came here to frustrate us and it was up to us to break them down. Fortunately we kept sticking at it and luckily we had a little bit of a break with our first goal."

He added: "It was a case of changing things just to send on fresh legs and fortunately it worked out well."