



LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

Town Player Watch

Robbo not quite up to speed yet

HATTERS midfielder Steve Robinson made his home league debut for Luton on Saturday in place of whiz-kid Kevin Foley.

Foley was called up to the Republic of Ireland's under 21 side for the UEFA under 21 Championship qualifier against Switzerland on Friday. However, the 18-year-old was forced to pull out of the squad due to an ankle injury.

Robinson, himself recovering from a back operation undertaken in the summer, made only his second first-team start on Saturday.

Here's how he rated.....

- Minutes on pitch: 74
- Passes to own player: 10
- Passes to opposition: 3
- Pass completion rate: 77 per cent.
- Efforts on target: 0
- Efforts off target: 0
- Shots blocked: 0
- Tackles won/interceptions: 8
- Tackles lost: 1
- Free-kicks won: 3
- Free-kicks conceded: 0
- Drabbles ball retained: 1
- Drabbles ball lost: 3
- Headers won: 3
- Headers lost: 4
- Crosses: 1

VERDICT: Robinson started busily and looked keen to impress. However, his workrate was let down by poor positional play.

Robbo's preferred role is in central midfield and he showed a tendency to drift inside, denying Luton any natural width.

His low number of passes and crosses showed how little he was involved.

NEWELL'S VIEW: "We're carrying players with the likes of Russ Perrett and Robbo who aren't match fit."

"It doesn't leave a lot to choose from, but I can't fault the lads - they are all putting in the effort."



Picture: Gareth Owen

PINBALL: Gary McSheffrey moves quickly to deflect Andy Thompson's attempted clearance into the net for the Hatters' equaliser.

A cracker from Macca

HATTERS 3 WYCOMBE 1

THE MASTER-SHEFF show continued at Kenilworth Road at the weekend as Luton's on-loan star Gary McSheffrey bagged his first brace for the Hatters.

McSheffrey has been cooking up a storm during his two months in Bedfordshire from Coventry City and has shown fans that he has all the ingredients to become a top-class striker.

Defender Russ Perrett followed And McSheffrey put the icing on the cake of a late Luton fightback against Wycombe on Saturday by smashing home an unstoppable left-footed effort from 25-yards in the final minute.

His memorable strike followed a slightly scrappier, but more important equaliser, in the 75th minute to cancel out Wycombe's opener, a penalty from Steve Brown in the 49th minute.

Defender Russ Perrett grabbed his second goal in six days to put the Town ahead in the 85th minute before McSheffrey brought the house down with his piledriver.

The Beds v Bucks derby also marked a special occasion for 17-year-old Dean Brill who made his full league debut in

Sheff super strike tops late victory

goal for his hometown club with Robert Beckwith suspended.

But the former Lea Manor student's big day almost got off to the worst possible start after just 80 seconds.

Brill scuffed a left-footed clearance on the edge of the box and Wycombe skipper Michael Simpson hit a curling effort first-time from 40 yards, but the ball rebounded to safety off the underside of the crossbar.

Ex-West Ham forward Gavin Holligan then raced clear of Perrett in the 10th minute, only to slide his shot wide with just Brill to beat.

But Luton eventually came back into the game when Steve Robinson, stepping in for the injured Kevin Foley, set up Adrian Forbes after 23 minutes.

Forbes outstripped Guy Branton to reach Robinson's header, but then saw Wycombe's Aussie keeper Frank Talia pull off a wonderful one-handed save from his right-foot shot. Talia then pro-

duced another smart stop from Courtney Pitt's low drive after half-an-hour as honours remained even at half-time.

But Wycombe took the lead against the run of play four minutes after the interval when referee Richard Beeby pointed to the spot after Pitt and Wycombe full-back Daniel Senda collided.

Brown, who had earlier incurred the wrath of the home crowd for a series of clumsy challenges, gave Brill no chance, hitting his spot-kick high to the young keeper's right.

A double substitution from Newell on 74 minutes inspired Luton's fightback when Enoch Showunmi and Lee

Mansell replaced Forbes and Robinson.

Sixty seconds after the change, Spring and Pitt combined to set up the overlapping Sol Davis. The full-back's dangerous low cross looked to have been dealt with by Wycombe's Andy Thompson, but McSheffrey showed great awareness to block the attempted clearance into the bottom corner of the goal.

Hatters then ran riot as Perrett nodded home Spring's corner and McSheffrey's thunderbolt found the top corner. Chris Coyne, Showunmi and Mansell also went close.

STAR HATTER: Gary McSheffrey. Deserved award for second strike alone.

NEWELL'S VERDICT

"WE were pleased with the result and the way the lads stuck at it, but it was a frustrating afternoon.

"We are struggling along a little bit at the moment. I don't want to make excuses, but we are carrying players who are not 100 per cent fit.

"Wycombe came here to frustrate us, as teams will who are below us in the league.

"From what I've heard it was the

same here last season. People want to come to Luton and go home with something, but that's something we have to work against and we have to break teams down.

"Sometimes you have to change things with substitutions for the sake of it to liven the game up.

"Fortunately things went for us today and we were helped by getting the break for the first goal."

HATTERS

Luton	3-1	Wycombe
McSheffrey 75, 89		Brown 49 (pen)
Perrett 85		

Where Scored For/Agt

6yd	5	4
18yd	16	12
Outside	18	13

How Scored For/Agt

Shots	12	5
Headers	7	6
Volley	1	4
Penalties	2	3
Free Kicks	0	0
Own Goals	0	0

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals Scored	4	Goals conceded	2
Points won	7	Points lost	1

Luton Town's Scorers

Player	Age	CC	Tot	Cl	Gr
Gary McSheffrey	7	1	8	12	0.75
Steve Howard	4	1	5	10	0.40
Tony Thorpe	4	1	5	10	0.40
Kevin Foley	2	1	3	13	0.23
Adrian Forbes	1	2	2	4	0.50
Russell Perrett	2	0	2	4	0.50
Chris Coyne	1	1	12	15	0.13
Alan Neilson	1	0	1	5	0.20
Kevin Nicholls	1	0	1	6	0.17
Alan Neilson	1	0	1	6	0.17
David Boyles	1	0	1	7	0.14
Matthew Spink	1	0	1	12	0.08
Courtney Pitt	0	1	1	12	0.08

Seasonal Progress Chart

Last 6 Matches

Opposition	H/A	Score	Result
Wycombe	H	3-1	Won when behind
Tranmere	H	3-1	Lost when behind
Swindon	A	2-2	Lost when ahead
Oldham	A	0-3	Drawn when ahead
QPR	H	1-1	Scored from Corners
Port Vale	H	2-0	Scored from Free Kicks

Top Scorers in each Category

Category	Player	Goals
Headed Goals	McSheffrey	1
Long Range Shots	McSheffrey	1
Penalties scored	Nicholls	1
Inside 6 yards	McSheffrey	1
Scored 1st Goal	McSheffrey	1
6-18 yards	McSheffrey	1
Cls in Last 10 mins	4 players	1

Attendance Figures

Category	Player	Goals
Scored from Corners	McSheffrey	1
Scored from Free Kicks	Nicholls	1
Conceded from Corners	McSheffrey	1
Conceded from Free Kicks	McSheffrey	1

Attendance Figures

Category	Player	Goals
Highest Attendance	8,339	
Lowest Attendance	5,002	
Ave Attendance	6,648	

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