



Town Player Watch

Sheff signs off with a tasty show

GARY McSheffrey made his final loan appearance for Luton Town against Chesterfield at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

The 21-year-old has spent three months at the Hatters scoring nine goals in 19 starts and becoming a firm favourite with the fans.

He was determined to sign-off on a high note and received a standing ovation after the game following another lively showing.

- Here's how he rated...
- Minutes on pitch: 90
 - Passes to own player: 17
 - Passes to opposition: 5
 - Pass completion rate: 77 per cent
 - Efforts on target: 3
 - Efforts off target: 0
 - Shots blocked: 1
 - Tackles won/interceptions: 2
 - Tackles lost: 4
 - Free-kicks won: 2
 - Free-kicks conceded: 4
 - Drabbles ball retained: 7
 - Drabbles ball lost: 3
 - Drabble completion rate: 70 per cent
 - Headers won: 1
 - Headers lost: 2
 - Crosses: 3
 - Offsides: 1

VERDICT: McSheffrey was his usual bustling self and was unlucky not to bring his Luton Town goal tally to double figures. His best chance came in the 14th minute when his wonderful dummy from Ahmet Brkovic's pass allowed Steve Howard to put him clear on goal, but Spireites keeper Carl Muggleton smothered at his feet. His ability to run with the ball at pace was also evident as shown by his high dribble completion rate (above).

NEWELL'S VIEW: "We hope it isn't his signing off performance, but we don't know what's going to be possible about keeping him."



Picture: Gareth Owen

NOT THIS TIME: Gary McSheffrey, making his last loan appearance for the Hatters, is denied by Chesterfield keeper Carl Muggleton.

Town on gr-eight run

HATTERS 1 CHESTERFIELD 0
LUTON TOWN'S impressive recent run of form may have coincided with the introduction of Marlon Beresford between the sticks, but the experienced goalkeeper is not claiming any of the glory.

The 34-year-old, who last week agreed to another month's contract at Kenilworth Road, has yet to be on the losing side since joining the Hatters at the end of October.

The experienced number one was brought in to steady the ship after Luton conceded 10 goals in two successive away games at Brentford and Bournemouth.

And the former Sheffield Wednesday and Middlesbrough player has done just that, helping the Town climb up the league table and progress to the second round of the FA Cup with a string of commanding performances.

But while Luton's eight-match unbeaten run stretches back to Beresford's debut in the 1-1 draw against Peterborough United, he is deflecting talk of him being the Town's lucky talisman.

He told the News-Gazette: "We all know footba'll's a funny game and that

Beresford yet to be on losing side

things can change so quickly, so I'm not thinking about that at all.

"I've just come in and am doing exactly what I've done for the last 16 or 17 years and that's keep goal as well as I can for the team. Other people have said 'oh, it's down to the experience you bring', but I like to think I'm still quite young!"

Beresford's career has seen him amass more than 350 league and cup appearances at 10 different clubs. But he admits he would love to stay at Luton on a permanent basis should the club's ownership situation be resolved.

He said: "I'm really enjoying my football here and was pleased to sign for another month."

"The last year has been a little bit unsettling moving from one club to another and getting a permanent contract and some permanent work is what I'd be after."

"Mike (Newell) first rang me when he was at Hartlepool about signing me then. With me living in that area it would have been ideal, but it wasn't to be."

"I spoke to him again on the day I signed for Bradford so we had to leave it for another month, but now I'm here and it's going really well, especially with the unbeaten run we're on."

He added: "I actually came to Luton on trial 20 years ago under John Moore and walked through the door this time and saw him again! He didn't remember me, but it was a nice memory for me."

Beresford enjoyed a relatively quiet afternoon's work on Saturday, with Chesterfield failing to muster one attempt on target during the 90 minutes.

Luton welcomed back Chris Coyne and Sol Davis after suspension, while Lee Mansell and Peter Holmes dropped to the bench. Ten-goal Adrian Forbes started

on the right-wing and it was his cross that set up Luton's goal after two minutes.

Howard rose to send a looping header over Spireites keeper Carl Muggleton, who could only push the ball on to the underside of the bar and into the net.

Muggleton produced close range saves from McSheffrey and Howard in the 14th and 26th minutes respectively. And the veteran custodian repeated his act after half-an-hour when the pair fired a separate shots from the edge of the penalty area. Steve Robinson and Howard both went close with further long-range efforts in the final 10 minutes, but in the end Hatters settled for another three points.

STAR HATTER: Steve Robinson, best showing yet for Luton this season.

NEWELL'S VERDICT

"WE had four chances in the first-half and while you don't expect to score all of them it would have been nice to go in a couple of goals up."

"But you have to give Chesterfield credit. They kept at it and made things difficult for us and we didn't produce any football of

any note in the second-half until the death."

"Two months ago we might have thrown the lead away and made it difficult for ourselves."

"It was a struggle, but we're happy with the three points and we'll look at the table and say 'we're still in with a shout'."



Luton 1-0 Chesterfield				Where Scored For/Agt				When Scored For/Agt				Luton Town's Scorers				Seasonal Progress Chart				Last 6 Matches				Swings			
Howard 3				6yd 6 10				10-15 16-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76-90				Luton CC FA LDV Tel Gm Gls/Gm				Aug 24				Chesterfield H 1-0				Won when behind			
Adrian Forbes 9				18yd 25 17				Goals in last 10 mins				Adrian Forbes 7 0 0 0 0 10 13 0.77				Headed Goals				Sheff Wed A 0-0				Drawn when behind			
Chris Coyne 6				Outside 2 6				Goals Scored 5 Goals conceded 7				Gary McSheffrey 5 1 0 0 0 3 15 0.47				Long Range Shots				Wreatham H 3-2				Lost when ahead			
Muggleton 2				How Scored For/Agt				Points won 2 Points lost 7				Steve Howard 5 1 0 0 0 3 13 0.46				Inside 6 yards				Bristol City A 1-1				Set Piece Goals			
Robinson 2				Shots 18 12				Goals in last 10 mins				Kevin Doyle 2 0 0 0 0 3 15 0.17				Perrett 2				Peterborough H 1-1				Scored from Free Kicks			
Offsides 2				Headers 10 12				Goals in last 10 mins				Matthew Judge 2 0 0 0 0 2 6 0.33				Volleyed shots				Bournemouth A 3-6				Conceded from Free Kicks			
Blathwick 3				Vollies 2 5				Goals in last 10 mins				Chris Coyne 2 0 0 0 0 1 2 0.50				Penalties scored				Attendance Figures				Highest Attendance 8,339			
Boycie 3				Penalties 2 3				Goals in last 10 mins				Kevin Doyle 2 0 0 0 0 1 2 0.17				Perrett 2				Lowest Attendance 5,002				Average Attendance 5,936			
Forbes 3				Free Kicks 0 1				Goals in last 10 mins				Lee Mansell 2 0 0 0 0 1 2 0.09				Shots 6-18 yards				Scored 1st Last 10 mins				Hatters 1			
McSheffrey 3				Own Goals 1 2				Goals in last 10 mins				Steve Robinson 2 0 0 0 0 1 2 0.09				Forbes 3				Hatters 3				Hatters 1			
Holmes 3												Paul Hughes 2 0 0 0 0 1 2 0.05															
												Matthew Spring 2 0 0 0 0 1 2 0.05															
												Emerson Boyce 2 0 0 0 0 1 2 0.04															

For 90 minutes a week you go happy to be on the pitch