LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Player Watch and Star Hatter Award

Peter is the Hatters Holme boy

NEWLY re-signed Hatter Peter Holmes made only his second start of the season for the Town on Saturday, replacing the suspended Matthew Spring in the centre of the Luton midfield.

Holmes produced a classy display alongside the also impressive Steve Robinson to help the Town into round three and to win our latest Star Hatter award.

Here's how he rated at Spotland...

- Minutes on pitch: 90
- Passes to own player: 29
- Passes to opposition: 8
- Pass completion rate: 78 per cent
- Efforts on target: 0
- Efforts off target: 3
- Shots blocked: 0
- Tackles won/interceptions: 11
- Tackles lost: 2
- Free-kicks won: 1
- Free-kicks conceded: 1
- Dribbles ball retained: 5
- Dribbles ball lost: 1
- Dribble completion rate: 83 per cent
- Headers won: 3
- Headers lost: 2
- Crosses: 3
- Bookings: 1

VERDICT: Holmes was confident in possession as shown by his high pass and dribble completion rates. He was also effective at breaking up the Rochdale attacks with a number of important tackles in midfield.

NEWELL'S VIEW: "I thought Holmes was outstanding, particularly as he's only had one game so far, against Sheffield Wednesday two weeks ago.

"If I had to highlight one player from the game he would be the one. But considering we had other players who also haven't had many games, I'm pleased."

Picture: Gareth Owen

CASTING A SPELL: Steve Howard, who was given permission to play with a cast on his broken hand, turns Dale skipper Daryl Burgess.

Robbo next in FA Cup

...after Spotland spot-kick drama

ROCHDALE 0 HATTERS 2

AFTER seeing off Third Division Rochdale with a professional performance in Lancashire, Hatters fans and management were praying for a plum tie against a Premiership giant in the FA Cup round three.

So when the Town were drawn away to Bryan Robson's First Division strugglers Bradford City, it may have all seemed like a bit of an anti-climax.

But while Luton boss Mike Newell admitted it "wasn't very exciting when the name came out", he did stress it was a game his side could realistically win. Newell said: "We're away again, but it's not one that's beyond us. I know Bradford have struggled so far this season and we'll go there with a chance.

"It wasn't exciting when the name came out of the hat, but sometimes you have to progress a bit further before getting the big names."

Luton were the third last team to be drawn out of the FA's famous velvet bag and Newell added: "There were very few balls left. I knew Everton were still in there and we were all hoping, but it wasn't to be."

The January 3 trip to the newly-named Bradford and Bingley Stadium in Valley Parade will be Luton's seventh away cup tie already this season after the Carling Cup trip to Charlton, LDV Vans visits to Stevenage, Rushden and Southend and the two previous FA Cup rounds at Thurrock and Rochdale.

The Yorkshire tie will mean Hatters goalkeeper Marlon Beresford returning to face his old club and will also see Bantams number one Alan Combe line up against the side he had a trial with at the beginning of last season.

Newell said: "Marlon spent two months there this season and did well, as he has done here.

"He believes it's one we can win, but you don't want to say too much because it can come back to haunt you. Bradford are in their position for a reason, but we just need to put it out of our minds until January."

Saturday's well-earned 2-0 win at Rochdale took the Hatters to nine games unbeaten. And while it looked as though Steve Robinson's spot-kick drama at Spotland might cost Luton in the second-half, the clash was eventually settled by Lee Mansell's 77th minute strike.

Robinson had earlier put the Town ahead from the spot after Simon Grand tripped Adrian Forbes. But when Forbes won a second penalty nine minutes later, Dale keeper Neil Edwards dived low to his left to push Robinson's identical kick around the post.

Robinson's busy day continued when he was booked in the 28th minute for a foul on Chris Beech. And after the home side rallied in the second-half, it was Robinson who again popped up to play a one-two with Ahmet Brkovic and see his cross deflect off Edwards into Mansell's path for the 21-year-old to sidefoot home from eight yards.

NEWELL'S VERDICT

"THE first half I was very pleased with the way we went about it.

"They didn't pose us too many problems and we kept them under control and then hit them on the break. But we didn't do that again in the second-half until our goal.

"It could have been out of reach by half-time, but it's quite difficult taking two penalties to be quite honest. We had a feeling when Robbo stepped up it wasn't going to go in.

"It's always nice to keep another clean sheet and that's nine games unbeaten now, which is great for confidence."

HATTERS

Rochdale 0–2 Luton

Robinson 20 (pen)
Mansell 77

Rochdale	Luton
Edwards	Beresford
Simpkins	Coyne
Evans	Davis
Grand	Hillier
Burgess	Boyce
Jones G	Robinson
Beech 80	Mansell
Doughty	Brkovic
Cornor 67	Holmes
Bishop 46	Forbes
McCourt	Howard
Patterson 80	
McEvilly 67	
Townson 46	

	Rochdale	Luton
Att On Target	7	6
Att Off Target	3	7
Corners	2	3
Offsides	3	9
Fouls	19	19
Booked	Jones Ca, Simpkins	Robinson
Sent Off	none	none

Where Scored For/Agt

	For	Agt
6 yd	6	10
18 yd	25	17
Outside 18 yd	2	6

How Scored For/Agt

	For	Agt
Shots	18	12
Headers	10	10
Volleys	2	5
Penalties	2	3
Free Kicks	0	1
Own Goals	1	2

All Goals FOR in 2004: Goals AGAINST in imagination

When Scored For/Agt

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals Scored	5	Goals conceded	6
Points won	2	Points lost	7

Luton Town's Scorers

	Lge	CC	FA	LDV	Tot	Gms	Gls/Gm
Adrian Forbes	7	0	3	0	10	14	0.71
Gary McSheffrey	8	1	0	0	9	19	0.47
Steve Howard	5	1	0	0	6	14	0.43
Tony Thorpe	2	1	0	0	3	3	1.00
Kevin Foley	1	2	0	0	3	18	0.17
Russell Perrett	2	0	0	0	2	6	0.33
Lee Mansell	1	0	1	0	2	12	0.17
Steve Robinson	1	0	1	0	2	13	0.15
Chris Coyne	1	1	0	0	2	25	0.08
Matthew Judge	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.50
Kevin Nicholls	1	0	0	0	1	5	0.20
David Bayliss	0	1	0	0	1	7	0.14
Enoch Showunmi	0	0	0	1	1	7	0.14
Alan Neilson	1	0	0	0	1	8	0.13
Michael Leary	0	0	0	1	1	8	0.13
Courtney Pitt	0	1	0	0	1	14	0.07
Paul Hughes	1	0	0	0	1	16	0.06
Matthew Spring	1	0	0	0	1	21	0.05
Emmerson Boyce	0	0	1	0	1	24	0.04

Seasonal Progress Chart

Fouls & Offsides

Avg Fouls/game	13.15
Div 2 Rating	16
Avg Offside/game	4.7
Div 2 Rating	22

Ratings of 1 = team game away least fouls/offsides in div and 24 = most

Top Scorers in each Category

Headed Goals	Howard, Perrett	2	Volleyed shots	McSheffrey, Robinson	1
Long Range Shots	McSheffrey	2	Penalties scored	Nicholls, McSheffrey	1
Inside 6 yards	Perrett	2	Scored 1st Goal	Howard	3
Shots 6-18 yards	Forbes	6	Gls in Last 10 mins	5 players	1

Lost 6 Matches

Opponents	H/A	Score
Chesterfield	H	1-0
Sheff Wed	A	0-0
Wrexham	H	3-2
Bristol City	A	1-1
Peterborough	H	1-1
Bournemouth	A	3-6

Swings

Won when behind	3
Drawn when behind	2
Lost when ahead	2
Drawn when ahead	4

Set Piece Goals

Scored from Corners	4
Scored from Free Kicks	4
Conceded from Corners	2
Conceded from Free Kicks	4

Attendance Figures

Highest Attendance	8,339
Lowest Attendance	5,002
Ave Attendance	5,936

For 90 minutes or