

Showunmi the money

03/04

Luton 1 Colchester 0

NON-CONTRACT striker **Enoch Showunmi** scored his first league goal to keep Luton's play-off push on track in a 1-0 win against Colchester.

Showunmi struck midway through the second half, turning sharply to fire home from 18 yards.

In the first half Showunmi had clipped the crossbar and stabbed wide from a couple of yards.

Colchester also wasted several good chances with Craig Fagan hitting a post from two yards with an open goal at his mercy.

Kem Izzet also hit the bar when his downward header from Fagan's cross bounced up and over the bar of debutant keeper Morten Hyldgaard.

The Hatters were then grateful to midfielder Steve Robinson, who was perfectly positioned to clear Liam Chilvers' shot off the line.

Luton manager Mike Newell admitted Showunmi is an unknown quantity.

The 21-year-old graduate was recruited from park football in North London over the summer.

The Hatters cannot sign the Londoner because of an embargo imposed by the Football League while they are in receivership.

The 6'4" striker, who is playing for no wages although he claims expenses, settled the contest with a stunning strike from the edge of the area after turning neatly to control an incisive pass by Peter Holmes.

Newell said: "He's raw and has something to offer even though we are not yet sure what it is."

Luton's director of football Mick Harford added: "We didn't play particularly well, especially in the first half, but created enough chances to win. We felt at halftime that one goal would



Luton manager **MIKE NEWELL**

probably settle it.

"We are all pleased for Showunmi. He had missed chances you would dream about but then turned and hit a great strike into the bottom corner of the net. He has a great appetite for the game and works hard."

Harford was also pleased with the display of former Denmark Under-21 goalkeeper Morten Hyldgaard, who was making his debut for the Hatters.

He added: "Hyldgaard didn't have an awful lot to do but we were pleased with his performance."

Colchester manager Phil Parkinson insisted his players were focused on the game instead of this week's LDV Vans Trophy southern area final against Southend and FA Cup tie against Sheffield United.

Parkinson said: "We did everything but put the ball in the net. We should have been two goals up at half time and if we had been, the game would have been over."

"But give credit to Luton. They did better in the second half and got the all-important goal."

"I've told our lads I couldn't have asked for much more than they gave. They did absolutely everything except put the ball in the net."

"We hit the post and the crossbar and it's frustrating because we have exciting players going forward but we aren't converting chances."