

Enoch shows 'em the way to goal

**Luton Town 1
Colchester Utd 0**

A FIRST Football League goal for Enoch Showunmi blew the cobwebs and Colchester United away at Kenilworth Road yesterday.

It was their first league game in three weeks because of FA Cup commitments and last week's waterlogged pitch and the win keeps them well in touch with the play-off places.

Colchester came to Kenilworth Road fresh from a midweek FA Cup scalp at home to Coventry.

Gary McSheffrey's side tumbled out of the competition 3-1 at Layer Road with Rowan Vine grabbing a hat-trick.

The Shef who had a successful loan spell with the Hatters earlier in the season was on the bench as his side crashed to their second division opponents who will now face Luton's conquerors Tranmere in the next round.

Last week's postponed game against Hartlepool enabled Matthew Spring to recover since being injured at Bradford City.

Other inclusions to the starting XI were Steve Howard and Steve Robinson, both back from suspension.

Hatters' fans also had a first look at Marlon Berekford's replacement - Morten Hyldgaard, the 'Great Dane' as boss Mike Newell describes him, was given the squad number one, which has not been filled since Mark Ovendale left in the summer.

Bar injuries to Russ Perrett and Adrian Thorpe, Newell could play what some might describe as his best side.

But it was Colchester who made all the running throughout the first half.

On six minutes, Vine beat the offside trap



■ Decider: Enoch Showunmi shapes to shoot for the only goal of the game

and crossed low into the box to strike partner Craig Fagan, who at full stretch hit a post from four yards out.

Early warning signs sparked some life into Hatters, who also hit the woodwork through Enoch Showunmi. The unpredictable striker picked up the ball on the left wing and his a cross-cum-shot that clipped the top of the bar on its way to the corner flag.

Luton had Sol Davis to thank at the other end when his superbly timed slide-tackle took the ball off Vine's toes from seven yards out.

From the resulting corner a scramble in the box fell to United defender Liam Chilvers, whose volley was blocked on the line by a well-positioned Robinson.

Colchester looked like breaking their duck on 41 minutes but the woodwork kept them out yet again.

Fagan chased down the right wing and his cross into the box was met by Kem Izzet. His header beat Hyldgaard, rooted to the spot, but bounced off the underside of the bar.

In the last minute of the half Hatters almost took an undeserved lead when Robinson powered through the midfield before laying the ball off to Howard.

He was pole-axed from behind and as the players waited for the whistle, Showunmi raced through but screwed his shot wide with only Simon Brown to beat.

Howard was booked for protesting about the decision to play on.

Showunmi, this time last year playing park football for Willesden Constantine, gave the Hatters a surprise lead on 51 minutes.

Robinson played in Peter Holmes, who picked out Showunmi on the edge of the area. The tall striker turned his marker and

buried a low drive into the corner for his second of the season.

To underline just how enigmatic Showunmi can be, just two minutes earlier the striker missed an absolute sitter.

Robinson delivered into the box, where everyone jumped including goalkeeper Brown and then all fell on the floor, apart from Showunmi.

He swung a boot at the ball but volleyed it into wide of an empty net.

Whether this rough diamond can become the finished article is still open to debate, but his goal was very welcome after United had dominated the first half.

Colchester had five strikers on the field at one stage as they tried to salvage a point but Hatters' defence stayed firm.

Despite the pressure, it was a relatively quiet debut for Hyldgaard, the former Hibernian goalkeeper dealing competently with all that was asked of him.

Assistant manager Mick Harford was a relieved man after the game. "We didn't play particularly well especially in the first half. We just did not look ourselves," said Harford.

"I thought we might have needed a killer second goal as they always looked likely to nick a goal."

Of Showunmi, Harford said: "When he missed the first chance I said to Mike 'they're the ones you dream about'. But to be fair a minute later he has scored a good goal - I'm delighted for him."

Brighton visit Kenilworth Road on Tuesday (kick-off: 745pm). Of the game Harford said: "We told the players the importance of the next two games and if we beat Brighton we still very much in the play-off frame."



MATCH FACTS



Luton Town: Hyldgaard; Foley, Coyne, Boyce, Davis; Nicholl, Spring, Robinsonk, Holmes; Howard, Showunmi (Crowe 84m).
Subs: Brill (g), Davies, Leary, Brkovic

Referee: Mr Eddie Ilderton
(Newcastle Upon Tyne)

GOALSCORERS:
Luton: Showunmi (51)
Colchester: -

SHOTS ON TARGET
Luton: 5
Colchester: 2

SHOTS OFF TARGET
Luton: 13
Colchester: 8

CORNERS
Luton: 4
Colchester: 3

OFFSIDE
Luton: 2
Colchester: 4

BOOKINGS
Luton: Howard (45)
Colchester: Vince (74)

ATTENDANCE: 5,662

HATTERS STAR MAN:
KEVIN FOLEY

Young right back strong in defence and supported the attack admirably

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	30	17	9	4	65	27	60
QPR	30	16	9	5	54	28	57
Bristol City	29	15	10	4	43	22	55
Swindon	30	13	9	8	46	37	48
Barnsley	30	12	11	7	40	34	47
Brighton	29	13	7	9	42	31	46
Port Vale	29	13	6	10	47	42	45
Wrexham	29	13	5	11	35	30	44
Hartlepool	29	11	10	8	45	36	43
Luton	27	11	9	7	42	39	42
Bournemouth	29	10	10	9	33	33	40
Rushden & D	29	11	6	12	49	47	39
Blackpool	30	11	6	13	37	43	39
Colchester	29	10	8	11	29	37	38
Tranmere	29	8	13	8	33	40	37
Sheffield Wed	30	8	12	10	34	39	36
Oldham	29	7	12	10	40	45	33
Brentford	30	9	6	15	32	46	33
Chesterfield	30	7	10	13	29	46	31
Grimsby	27	7	9	11	31	43	30
Peterborough	30	6	11	13	35	43	29
Stockport	30	5	13	12	38	49	28
Notts County	30	6	7	17	30	52	25
Wycombe	30	4	10	16	32	52	22

Division Two results

Barnsley	2	Hartlepool	2
Bristol City	3	Brentford	1
Luton	1	Colchester	0
Peterborough	0	Chesterfield	2
Plymouth	0	Bournemouth	0
Port Vale	3	Sheff Wed	0
QPR	3	Notts County	2
Swindon	4	Rushden & D	2
Tranmere	1	Blackpool	1
Wrexham	0	Stockport	0
Wycombe	1	Brighton	1



■ Up for it: Steve Howard gets his head to the ball



■ Debut: Morten Hyldgaard