

Town Player Watch

### Great Dane starts with clean sheet

DANISH goalkeeper Morten Hyldgaard made his Hatters debut against Colchester United on Saturday - and also made a welcome return to senior first team football.

After playing the majority of last season for Coventry City, the 6ft 6ins tall keeper failed to make a single start for Scottish Premier League side Hibernian this term.

Here's how the 26-year-old fared at Kenilworth Road.

- Minutes on pitch: 90 •Shots on target saved: 2
- •Shots on target conceded: 0 OCrosses caught: 2 • Crosses dropped: 0
- Crosses punched: 1 •Short passes/throws to Luton: 9
- Short passes/throws to U's: 1 •Goal kicks over half-way: 3
- Goal kicks under half-way: 4Drop kicks over half-way: 9 •Drop kicks under half-way: 0
- OLong kicks from open play over half-way: 8
   Long kicks from open play under half-way: 4
- •Long kicks to Luton: 11
- •Long kicks to U's: 17
- •Free-kicks won: 0 •Free-kicks conceded: 0 VERDICT: Although looking

slightly nervous on occa-sions, Hyldgaard did enough to secure a clean sheet on his debut. Despite Colchester's threat and pace on the break, Hyldgaard only had three shots on target to contend with. U's other two best chances came back off the woodwork

The Dane's ground kick-ing was generally solid, but his drop kicks showed a ten-dency to slice off to the right hand side. All in all, a competent start to build on. HARFORD'S VERDICT: "His HARTORD'S VERDICT: "His kicking wasn't great today, although there was a strong wind, but I think he did well overall. He might have been a bit nervous, but we were pleased with him."



ENOCH SHOWS 'EM HOW: Showunmi slots home the Hatters' winner against Colchester United at Kenilworth Road on Saturday

# e's a Show-stopper!

### HATTERS 1 COLCHESTER 0

HATTERS fans hailed their new Luton hero Enoch Showunmi, after the rookie striker fired Town to victory with his first league goal on Saturday.

The gangly 21-year-old swept the ball past Colchester keeper Simon Brown from 16 yards in the 52nd minute to give Luton an important three points in their hunt for a play-off place.

And the North Londoner admitted

And the North Londoner admitted his relief at bagging his first goal at Kenilworth Road after two glaring misses just moments earlier.

Showunmi said: "I thought I should have got a hat-trick today because I missed two much easier opportunities.

"When I missed the second one I was a such bagging to the property in the company of the second one I was a such bagging to the property in the second one I was a such bagging to the second one I was

just banging my fist on the floor. But it was a great relief to finally score." Fans' hero Showunmi is playing for expenses on a non-contract deal while expenses on a non-contract deal while Hatters remain in administrative receivership. But he hasn't let the lack of cash bother him. He said: "I'm not worrying about that at this moment in

time because I'm just trying to break into the professional game. "Of course I'd like to be in a position to look after my family, but at the moment I'm living at home with my mum and dad so it's not too difficult for

## Rookie gets the winner

." Showunmi, who played in midfield for Willesden Constantine in the Middlesex County League last season, last scored for Luton at Rushden & Dia-monds in the LDV Vans Trophy in

But he said: "I don't think I've been under pressure to score because Luton have taken me on and given me the chance to progress. There's a big difference to how I'm playing this season compared to last season.

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"The fans keep egging me on, even when I miss chances and that helps.
"For myself personally I want to score goals in every game and I really want to prove my ability"

And Showunni certainly showed someof his ability with Saturday's winner. Steve Robinson's driving run in midfield cave Peter Hollmes the chance midfield gave Peter Holmes the chance to play a ball in from the right-hand side and Showunmi took one touch, turned and beat Brown with a low, left-

either side of half-time when Show-unmi found himself with only Brown to beat, but poked the ball wide on each occasion from just yards out. Hatters handed a home debut to goal-

keeper Morten Hyldgaard. And the big Dane was almost forced to pick the ball out of the net after just six minutes. Rowan Vine beat Chris Coyne on the right and fired across the face of goal for Craig Fagan to slide in at the far

post, only for his effort to rebound clear off the woodwork

Hatters came back into it and Kevin Nicholls, playing in place of Lee Mansell on the right of midfield, crossed for Steve Howard to head just wide in the 17th minute. Showunmi's mis-hit cross skimmed

the bar three minutes later and Robin-

son and Holmes also went close. But Colchester-threatened again when Kem Izzet volleyed goalwards from Joseph Keith's corner and the ball fell to Liam Chilvers, but his goalbound effort was hacked off the line by Robinson.

Luton had another let off three min utes before half-time when another lightning break from the U's saw Fagan latch on to Brown's long clearance down the right and cross for Izzet to power a header into the ground and up and on to the underside of the bar.

Showunmi finally broke the deadlock in the second period and Colchester ended the game with five strikers on the field, but Luton held firm.

**STAR HATTER:** Steve Robinson. Back after suspension with a determined midfield showing.

### **MICK HARFORD'S VERDICT**

"It was a well earned three points. I don't think we played particularly well,

played particularly well, but we created enough chances to win the game. "We never really fin-ished them off and if you look at their substitutions thay had four criskors or they had four strikers on

bility when you're only one up that they can get one back and they nearly did at the end.

"We looked a bit legs; We had a free week last week and also had players who haven't played much in the past months. We didn't look ourselves in the first-half, but we did much better in the second.

