



Town Player Watch

Keith is so Keane on full debut

HATTERS teenager Keith Keane made his full league debut for Luton Town on Saturday in the same week that he was called into the Republic of Ireland's under 19 squad.

- Here's how he fared...
● Minutes on pitch: 90
● Passes to Luton: 15
● Passes to Wycombe: 12
● Tackles won: 14
● Tackles lost: 2
● Free-kicks won: 2
● Free-kicks conceded: 3
● Headers won: 6
● Headers lost: 6
● Shots on/off/blocked: 0
● Dribbles retained/lost: 0
● Crosses: 0
● Yellow cards: 1

VERDICT: Keane found himself with a tough task, facing Wycombe playmaker Darren Currie from the off. But after sticking closely to the Chairboys winger, Currie swapped flanks with Jermaine McSpornan after half-an-hour.

Wycombe targeted Keane in the second-half, launching the majority of their attacks down the left wing. And although Keane was booked early in the second-half and was shown a clean pair of heels on one occasion...

NEWELL'S VERDICT: "He stuck to his task and was one of the plus points. He's another who's only 17, but who has come in and taken his chance. He could have caved in with the lad running at him and after his booking. But their lad's had to move to the other side at the end of the day."



KEITH KEANE: A promising full league debut for the Hatters.



BUSTLING: Enoch Showunmi tangles with Wycombe Wanderers midfielder Dannie Bulman.

Morten is on Gaard!

WYCOMBE 0 HATTERS 0

HATTERS goalkeeper Morten Hyldgaard made it 270 minutes without conceding a goal as Luton struggled against Division Two's basement club Wycombe.

The 26-year-old giant Dane has still to pick the ball out of the net for the Hatters since signing on a free transfer from Scottish Premier League side Hibernian last month. And his record continued with a strong Town rearguard showing against Wycombe Wanderers.

Hyldgaard put in a confident display, producing his best save in a one-on-one against Chairboys forward Nathan Tyson in the 34th minute. The 6ft 6ins tall stopper was helped by the customary solid partnership from Emmerson Boyce and skipper Chris Coyne at the heart of the Luton defence and by a debut full of promise from teenager Keith Keane at full-back.

But Hatters will be disappointed with an attacking performance that produced only one effort on goal in the entire 90 minutes. Town boss Mike Newell said of Hyldgaard's third consecutive clean sheet: "He made a couple of decent stops. Sometimes he comes out and looks strong and takes the pressure off.

Hyld's third clean sheet

"But there was one particular cross that he punched where he could have caught it.

"He'll settle down though and three games and three clean sheets will help him. When you've not had a lot of first team football it can be difficult."

Newell praised Coyne and Boyce as well as new boy Keane. But he was unhappy at not dictating the game against Tony Adams' spluttering team. "The second-half" was an improvement on our first-half, but it would have been impossible to have been as bad."

After a scrappy opening period, Wycombe took control and McSpornan tested Hyldgaard with two 20-yard efforts in the 25th and 26th minutes that were comfortably gathered by the big keeper.

Dannie Bulman was next to try his luck on the half-hour mark when he saw Hyldgaard off his line, but he put his 30-yard lob over the bar.

The clearest chance of the half fol-

lowed four minutes later when Darren Currie, who had switched to the right from his starting position on the left-wing, played in Tyson. The pace forward ran clear with only Hyldgaard to beat, but the Dane blocked with his feet.

Wycombe ended the half with further threat, Roger Johnson flicking Currie's left-wing free-kick just past the post in stoppage time.

Hatters brightened up after the interval and registered their first meaningful attempt on goal in the 50th minute.

Captain Coyne chested down Matt Spring's free-kick on the right hand-corner of the penalty area and fired in a cross shot that narrowly missed the far post.

Luton's only goalbound effort followed 12 minutes later when Coyne

crossed for Howard, whose header was tipped over by home keeper Scott Bevan.

Hyldgaard parried Wycombe skipper Michael Simpson's low drive in the 67th minute just moments before the battling Enoch Showunmi twice went close in two minutes.

The 21-year-old latched on to Kevin Nicholls' throw to hook a shot over his head and past the post and then almost ran clear through, only for Bevan to deflect the ball for a corner.

But it was Wycombe who should have wrapped up the points a minute from time. Tyson centred from the left to McSpornan who blasted over from six yards when it looked easier to score.

STAR HATTER: Emmerson Boyce. Another masterful defensive show from Town's Mr Consistent.



MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT

"I'M not happy with a point at all. I felt we could have got something here the way we've been playing, but it wasn't to be. "Again we kept a clean sheet and didn't get beaten, but we're bitterly disappointed with the way we played."

"You can make excuses for the lads, but at the end

of the day we couldn't put two passes together in midfield.

"We didn't get on the ball and didn't look forward enough. If you don't go forward you can't hurt teams."

"Wycombe picked up the impetus after half-an-hour, but before that they looked low on confidence."

Match statistics for Wycombe 0-0 Luton. Includes tables for Luton Town's Scorers, Seasonal Progress Chart, Last 6 League Games, and Swings. Also features a 'HATTERS!' logo and a quote at the bottom: 'For 90 minutes a week you're...'