



Town Player Watch

Showunmi is Division Two leader

HATTERS striker Enoch Showunmi lined up before the Barnsley game with two awards to his name.

The 21-year-old, who has been playing for much of the season on expenses only, was named the Travel Extras Luton Town fans' player of the month for February. And he also won the Umbro Isotonic Division Two player of the month award for the same period after four goals in six starts.

- Here's how the Oak 41ns
forward fared at Eftkwell...
- Minutes on pitch: 90
 - Passes to Luton: 18
 - Shots on Target: 4
 - Pass completion rate: 82
per cent
 - Tackles won: 4
 - Tackles lost: 3
 - Free-kicks won: 1
 - Free-kicks conceded: 0
 - Headers won: 4
 - Headers lost: 1
 - Shots on target: 0
 - Shots off target: 1
 - Shots blocked: 0
 - Drabble ball retained: 2
 - Drabble ball lost: 4
 - Dribble completion rate: 33
per cent
 - Cresses: 1
 - Offsides: 4

VERDICT: Showunmi displayed a willingness to run with the ball whenever possible as shown by his high number of dribbles. However, he occasionally over-elaborated and lost possession as shown by his low dribble completion rate.

But Shownumi kept up his impressive workrate throughout and almost fed Steve Howard for a last minute winner only to see Barnsley captain Peter Handyside clear off the line.

Shownumi's only chance of the game came in the 16th minute when he raced on to Howard's lofted pass, but shot wide with his weaker right foot from an angle.



VOLLEY GOOD SHOW: Kevin Nicholls fires this spectacular 35th minute effort against the Barnsley bar, but he was flagged for offside.

Keane's Harty show!

BARNSELY 0 HATTERS 0

HATTERS boss Mike Newell was left to reflect on contrasting fortunes for his two full-backs after ensuring new Barnsley boss Paul Hart didn't get off to a winning start at Oakwell.

Teenager Keith Keane enjoyed a sterling afternoon's work – including clearing off the line when Tykes forward Daniel Nardiello looked certain to score in the 68th minute.

But Sol Davis, who also put in a strong showing, was left frustrated after picking up his 10th booking of the season.

The caution means Davis will miss Luton's clashes with Division Two promotion contenders Plymouth Argyle and Queen's Park Rangers on March 20 and March 27 respectively.

Referee Andre Marriner handed the 24-year-old defender his 38th minute yellow card for tripping Tykes' Manchester United loan player Nardiello on the edge of the area.

And Newell said: "There's no point in me worrying about it now because it's already happened."

"Their lad was virtually in the penalty box when it happened; that's why the referee's given it

"It's frustrating, but the fact that

But Sol has double ban

we've got Alan Neilson back now will help us."

A more positive note was the contribution from 17-year-old Keane, again deputising for regular Kevin Foley, who himself is only 19.

Newell said: "He did well. He's not even a right-back really, so for a lad to go in there and play three or four games like he has at just 17 is pleasing."

Although Luton left Yorkshire with a point, Newell was disappointed his side hadn't won the game.

And the Hatters almost stole all three points in the last minute of the game.

With the clock ticking away, Luton substitute Peter Holmes found Enoch Showunmi, who in turn chipped a ball behind the home defence for Steve Howard to bear down on.

After his first effort was blocked, Howard managed to loop a header over the stranded former Luton Town goalkeeper Marlon Beresford, only to see Tykes' skipper Peter Handyside clear off the line.

Howard was Luton's main threat all afternoon. But Beresford, who spent three months at Kenilworth Road earlier in the season, was his equal throughout and was eventually named the home side's joint man-of-the-match.

In the 11th minute Howard blasted a volley from the edge of the area that clipped the outside of the post. But Beresford then saved Howard headers in the 22nd, 61st and 71st minutes.

Barnsley, too, had their chances and Emmerson Boyce came to the rescue in the 10th minute. Alex Neil's cross eluded everyone in the box and Michael Boulding had time to take two touches and shoot past Morten Hyltdgaard, only to see Boyce clear.

Boulding went close again eight minutes before the break when he latched

MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT



"THE lads are disappointed - they felt the game was there for the taking.

"We had enough chances and when you come away from home you have to put them away.

"They had chances also, but they're the home side and you would expect that over 90 minutes.

"It was a poor second-half. We didn't get into it until the last 15 minutes. "After the first-half per-

formance, where we played some decent football, we felt we could have won the game.

"Sometimes a point is a good result away from home, but they had a lot of players missing today."

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