

SATURDAY MARCH 27TH 2004

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
ATTENDANCE: 17,695

QPR

1

FURLONG 45

TEAM: Camp, Bignot, Edghill, Carlisle, Gnohere, Rowlands, Bean (Cureton, 83), Johnson, Gallen, Thorpe (McLeod, 72) Furlong
Unused subs: Day, Palmer, Ainsworth
Bookings: McLeod, Rowlands
Sent off: -

LUTON TOWN

1

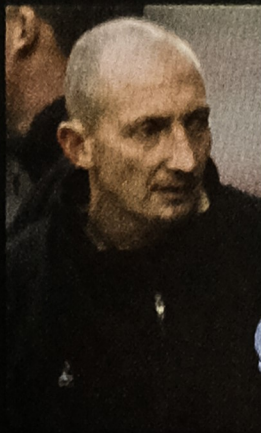
SHOWUNMI 76

TEAM: Hyldgaard, Neilson, Underwood (Holmes, 20) (Foley, 37), Nicholls, Robinson, Showunmi, Boyce, Brkovic, Hughes (Forbes, 37), Davies, Keane
Unused subs: Brill, Mansell
Bookings: Showunmi
Sentt off: -



MAN OF THE MATCH KEVIN GALLEN

Another five star performance by the Rangers ace. The versatile Gallen started on the left of midfield and set up Furlong's goal.



OLLIE'S VERDICT

" I'm a little disappointed that we didn't get that second goal – but when you look at the other results – it's another game gone and all to play for. Watch this space! "

Rangers had to settle for a share of the points after Enoch Showunmi's 76th minute strike cancelled out Paul Furlong's first half goal.

Rangers had taken a half time 1-0 lead after Furlong's stoppage time header, but the Hatters battled to stay in the contest and were rewarded through Showunmi's second half equaliser.

The Hatters were forced to make all three substitutions because of injuries, including that of substitute Peter Holmes, in the first half, and were forced to re-organise at half time.

Ian Holloway had brought new signing Marcus Bignot straight into the starting line up at right back, with Richard Edghill starting as the other full back in an offensive 4-4-2.

Tony Thorpe partnered Paul Furlong in attack, while Kevin Gallen played in a freer role on the left of a midfield. The Rangers manager also recalled Marcus Bean to the centre of midfield, after a two month absence from the starting XI through injury.

Mike Newell was forced to make the first substitution of the game with only 20 minutes gone. Paul Underwood was forced from the ground, with Peter Holmes his replacement.

On 28 minutes Kevin Gallen broke through the Luton defence. He turned to the line then back infield – before sending in his powerful shot, which the Luton 'keeper could only beat away with his legs.

Mike Newell was then forced to make two additional changes, with midfielder Paul Hughes

forced to leave the pitch after a heavy collision, with Adrian Forbes his replacement.

Then substitute Peter Holmes came off after only 17 minutes on the park, Kevin Foley coming on at right back. With all three substitutes made, half time couldn't come soon enough for the Luton manager to reorganise.

But it was Rangers who would take the lead in stoppage time, after Kevin Gallen made a strong run down the left flank, crossing to the far post to find Furlong rising high, and his powerful downward header beat Hyldgaard at the far post to give Rangers a deserved lead. Yet despite going down late in the half, the Hatters emerged early from the dressing room clearly intent on getting back in the game.

Lee Camp was called into action on 63 minutes, pulling off two fine saves in the space of two minutes. First, Showunmi fired in a bullet from inside the penalty area which Camp saw away, but could not hold. Then Kevin Nicholls shot from out side the box, but again Camp held Luton at bay.

However, Luton were to level the scores through Enoch Showunmi. The ball bounced awkwardly between Carlisle and the Luton striker, who won possession before beating Camp at the far post in the 76th minute.

The Rangers boss then brought on Jamie Cureton for Bean on 83 minutes, before Martin Rowlands was booked for an over eager challenge minutes later.

But it just wasn't to be and Luton Town held on for a share of the points.

