

Hatters continue winning ways

05/06

Luton2
Millwall1

GOALS from Warren Feeney and Curtis Davies saw Luton continue their impressive start to the season.

Feeney's first league goal of the campaign separated the sides at the break, but Millwall hit back seconds after the restart through Ben May.

Davies sealed the win 12 minutes from time when he steered home Kevin Nicholls' centre.

Luton started brightly and set about putting Millwall under pressure.

Nicholls produced the first effort on goal after three minutes, but his drive from just outside the area sailed wide of Andy Marshall's post.

Five minutes later Steve Robinson went close to opening the scoring but his shot from the edge of the box just cleared the crossbar.

Luton boss Mike Newell named an unchanged starting line-up following their 2-0 win at Leicester, with Feeney and Enoch Showunmi continuing up front in the absence of the suspended Steve Howard and the injured Rowan Vine.

And it was Feeney who made the Hatters' early pressure pay dividends.

The Northern Ireland international followed his goal in the recent 3-1 Carling Cup defeat of Leyton Orient with a powerful drive from the edge of the box after 12 minutes following good work by Paul Underwood.

Millwall boss Colin Lee kept faith with Marshall despite the Lions goalkeeper enduring a

miserable personal display during the 2-1 home defeat to Ipswich.

Sammy Igoe replaced Carlos Figueiro in midfield while Marvin Elliott, Tony Craig and May also returned to the starting line-up at the expense of Josh Simpson, Carl Asaba and Barry Hayles.

It took the visitors nearly half-an-hour to muster their first shot, but when it came, May's long-range effort did not trouble Marlon Beresford in the Luton goal.

Paul Robinson should have done better just after the half-hour mark from Jamie Vincent's corner, but he put his header from six-yards over the bar and the Lions went in at the interval trailing.

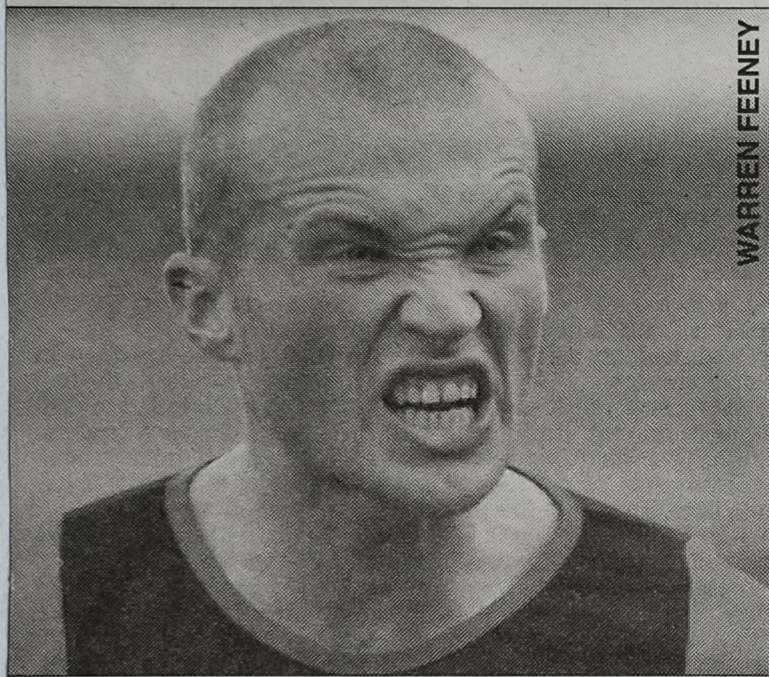
However within a minute of the restart, Millwall were level.

Elliott fed May from the right and the young striker made no mistake from just inside the box, firing in to the bottom corner for only the Lions' third league goal of the campaign.

That saw Newell's side up the tempo and Steve Robinson tested Marshall with a drive from the edge of the penalty area, but his 53rd minute effort was well saved.

Marshall again denied the Luton man 20 minutes later, this time producing a terrific save from the midfielder's header to keep his side in the match.

However, his resistance was eventually broken in the 78th minute when Davies pounced to convert Nicholls' cross following a free kick inside the Millwall half to leave the Lions still looking for their first win of the season.



WARREN FEENEY

Fixtures a concern for Newell

LUTON manager Mike Newell spoke out against the busy August fixture schedule following his side's win against Millwall.

He admitted his side looked sluggish and far from their best after their crammed early season programme.

He said: "I don't know why they keep piling fixtures on top of each other. Anyone who has played the game knows how difficult it is to recover after a match.

"You're still playing Saturday's game by Monday morning and it was added for us that we had a 12 noon kick-off.

"It's the same for everyone and there's nothing you can do about it but it's not easy especially as we haven't got

the biggest squad in the world.

"We've had seven games already and some of the lads have played even more with the international matches and they're out on their feet.

"People come to games expecting to see good football but you can't always provide it."

The defeat left Millwall rooted to the bottom, but boss Colin Lee said: "I don't think we deserved that but they're at the top and we're at the bottom and sometimes you don't get the rub of the green when you're down there.

"We haven't got the strength in the squad and I think we need to add new players but it's not clear what can be done in terms of transfers."