

Hodde draws on old habits

05/06

Luton **1**

Wolves **1**

**Patrick Maxwell
at Kenilworth Road**

WOLVES boss Glen Hoddle rejects the accusation that his side are draw specialists but, despite his denials, statistics appear to back up the charge.

The Molineux men have taken one point from 18 of their 31 games since he became manager last December. But this result ought to be discounted from such considerations as Wolves, and in particular centre-back Joleon Lescott, can take credit from this draw.

Confronted by a Luton team who put their more illustrious opponents under severe pressure at times, Wolves met the challenge.

They were just 11 minutes from surviving the aerial bombardment when Kevin Nicholls guided a low shot from 20 yards beyond Michael Oakes and into the net. Luton had carried the momentum from last season's promotion into the new campaign with eye-catching victories over Crystal Palace and Southampton providing the perfect launch pad.

Their record of just one defeat in 19 home League games underlined the task that confronted Wolves. But after withstanding a spell of early pressure the visitors started to take a strong grip on the game.

A shot from Kenny Miller, who scored three goals in Scotland's two World Cup qualifiers last week, was saved by keeper Marlon Beresford before Wolves took the lead in the 25th minute.

Skipper Mark Kennedy delivered a precision cross into the Luton box and, as defender Chris Coyne faltered, Carl Cort turned the ball in.

The striker was injured in the process as he collided with Beresford but was fit to continue after treatment.

Miller was not so fortunate. He passed a late fitness test on a hip injury sustained in Norway on Wednesday but was clearly in some pain and was withdrawn shortly after the goal.

Luton refused to be cowed by falling behind and Wolves suffered some anxious moments, particularly from set-piece plays. A header from Coyne was cleared off the line by Rohan Ricketts, the former Arsenal and Tottenham midfielder.

At the other end Cort spurned the chance to double Wolves' advantage when he shot wide. Wolves appeared to have drawn the sting from Luton in the early stages of the second half.