

LUTON TOWN (4-4-2)

Beresford; Edwards, Heikkinen, Coyne, Davis; Brkovic, Robinson (Foley, 77), Holmes, Morgan (Showunmi, 85); Howard, Feeney (Vine, 85). Subs (not used): Perrett, Brill.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2)

Green (5); Colin (6), Davenport (5), Doherty (6), Brennan (5); Henderson (6), Hughes (5) (Jarrett, 85), Charlton (5), Huckerby (6); McVeigh (5) (Ryan Jarvis, 45), Ashton (6). Subs (not used): Louis-Jean, Rossi Jarvis, Ward.

★ **City star man:** Dean Ashton – One great goal and set-up another on a night of woe for the Canaries.

MATCH ACTION

Hatters		Canaries
7	Shots on target	9
7	Shots off	11
12	Fouls	13
4	Corners	7
3	Offsides	9

Added time: 2mins / 4mins

GOALS

Luton: Feeney 16, Edwards 27, Holmes 34, Howard 41

Norwich: Ashton 56, Ryan Jarvis 85

REFEREE

Steve Tanner (Somerset) – Did a competent job when, by enlarge, both sides played it fair. 7/10

ATTENDANCE

10,248

HOW THEY STAND

Coca-Cola Football League Championship										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Sheff Utd	14	12	0	2	30	12	36			
Reading	14	9	4	1	24	8	31			
Luton	14	8	3	3	24	16	27			
Leeds	13	7	3	3	17	12	24			
Crystal P	13	6	2	5	20	13	20			
Wolves	14	5	5	4	18	13	20			
Watford	14	5	5	4	22	18	20			
Cardiff	13	5	4	4	19	17	19			
Stoke	14	6	1	7	15	21	19			
Southampton	14	3	9	2	15	13	18			
QPR	14	4	6	4	13	17	18			
Ipswich	14	5	3	6	14	21	18			
Derby	14	3	8	3	19	19	17			
Burnley	14	4	4	6	20	18	16			
Norwich	14	4	4	6	16	18	16			
Preston	14	3	7	4	15	17	16			
Hull	14	3	6	5	11	12	15			
Leicester	14	3	6	5	14	17	15			
Plymouth	14	3	5	6	11	18	14			
Brighton	14	2	7	5	14	19	13			
Coventry	14	2	7	5	18	24	13			
Sheff Wed	13	2	6	5	11	16	12			
Crewe	14	2	6	6	14	23	12			
Millwall	14	2	5	7	11	23	11			

Youngsters in reserve action

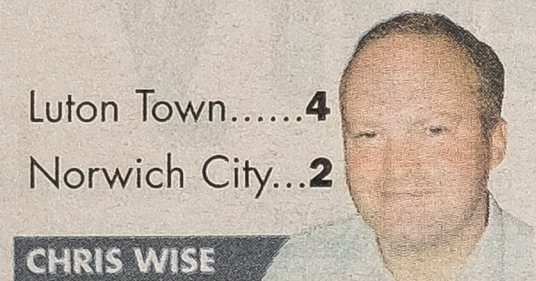
Youngsters will again be given a chance to shine when City Reserves take on their Leicester counterparts in a rare Wednesday night fixture at Carrow Road.

With as many as 10 players either injured or struggling for fitness it's a case of all hands on deck for the first team at present and as a result third choice keeper Paul Gallagher is likely to be the only professional on duty for Keith Webb's side – just as he was against Portsmouth last week. The game kick-offs at 7.30pm.

CANARIES: Crushed by rampant Luton

Night to forget as City buckle

05/06



CHRIS WISE

Luton Town.....**4**

Norwich City...**2**

Norwich paid the ultimate price for 26 minutes of defensive madness as they slumped to their joint heaviest defeat of the season at Kenilworth Road last night.

An encouraging three-match unbeaten run drew to a close in unceremonious fashion as a rampant Luton side took advantage of visitors bearing gifts to blast home four first-half goals.

An embarrassing moment from keeper Robert Green, who lost his footing while trying to deal with a routine cross and allowed it to drift into the back of the net, summed up a wretched spell from the Canaries back line, who simply weren't at the races before the break.

With Warren Feeney, Carlos Edwards, Peter Holmes and Steve Howard all hitting the back of the net, a repeat of the final day horror show at Fulham in May looked on the cards as a shell-shocked Norwich side headed for the sanctuary – if that's the right word – of the dressing room.

In the end it never got that bad with Dean Ashton and substitute Ryan Jarvis scoring in the second half to add a touch of respectability to the score.

But it was still a night to forget for Nigel Worthington's men. They could point to the fact that they had a number of key men missing and that they hit the woodwork twice while having another effort cleared off the line. But the fact remains that they suffered a heavy reverse against a side who were playing their football in League One last season and supporters will be looking for something a lot better when they travel to face Queens Park Rangers at the weekend.

The Canaries will be going into that match without the services of on-loan defender Calum Davenport who was sent off last night for two bookable offences.

That set-back encapsulated City's fortunes in a nutshell and now they need to bounce straight back, starting

at Loftus Road.

City went into their first trip to Kenilworth Road since August 1995 without the services of seven professionals. Adam Drury and Craig Fleming joined the lengthy casualty list after figuring in the squad that drew 1-1 with Millwall on Saturday, but there was some good news with Gary Doherty and Simon Charlton shrugging off knocks to take their place in the side. That meant Worthington was able to name a reasonably strong bench with Rossi Jarvis, who was joined by his brother Ryan, once again the only Academy starlet on duty.

The hosts got off to a bright start, with an early free-kick from Dean Morgan being deflected wide by one of his own players, but it wasn't long before the Canaries got a foothold in the match and they twice went close to taking the lead in the space of just two minutes.

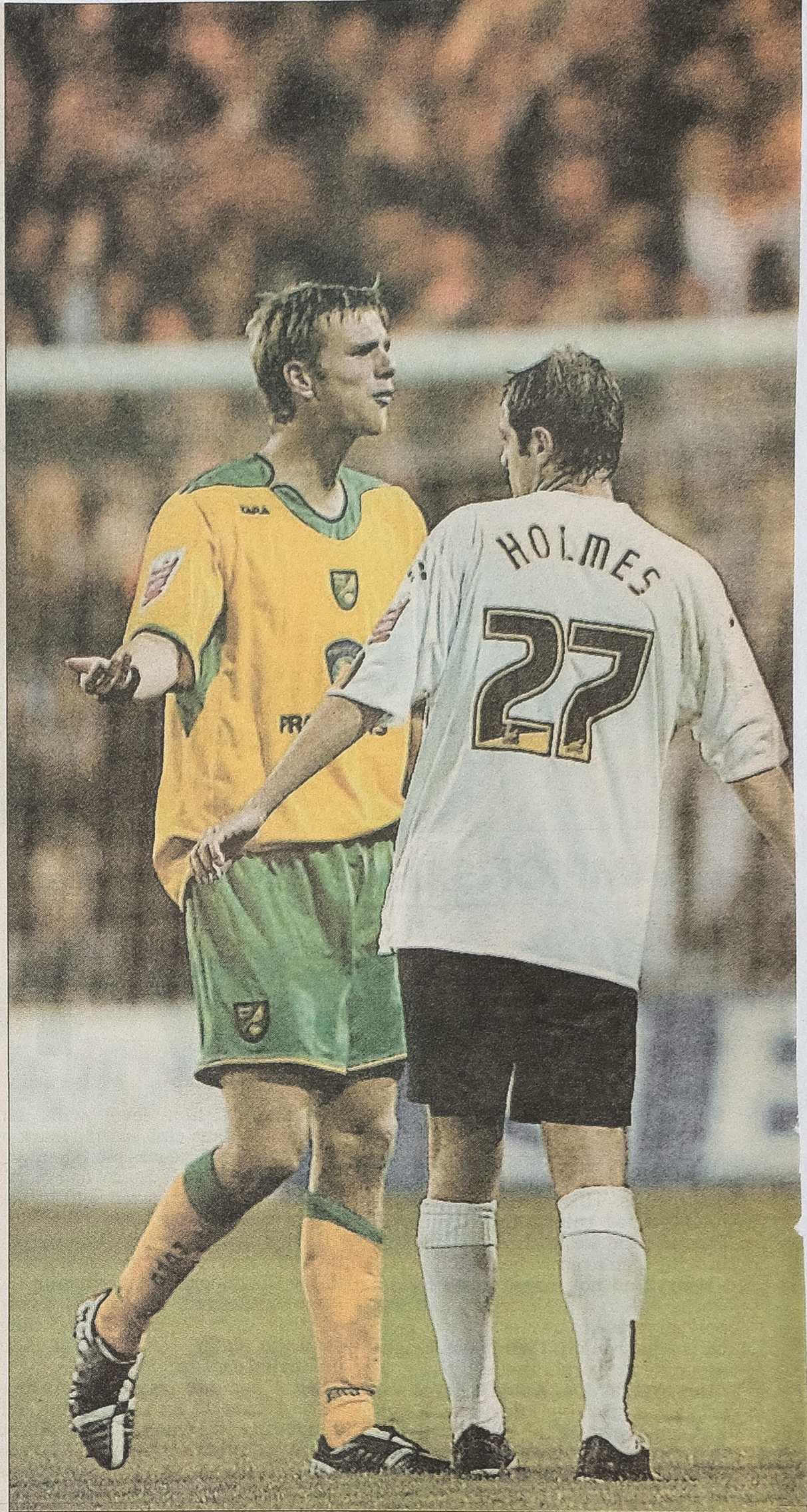
Darren Huckerby should really have done better after a slip from Edwards, who let him in through the inside left channel. An on target effort was called for but instead a misplaced shot drifted well wide of the target.

That was pure bad finishing, but it was pure bad luck that prevented Norwich from opening the scoring in their very next attack. The opening arrived when Jim Brennan floated in a deep cross from the right which keeper Marlon Beresford could only palm into the path of Henderson, some 16 yards out. When the youngster took aim it looked like a goal all the way but to the dismay of the packed City section it rebounded off the crossbar, with Huckerby then firing a loose ball over to further dismay the fans.

The Canaries faithful then took another painful hit three minutes later when Luton went in front after the visitors were guilty of some poor defending by their by-line.

Big central defender Chris Coyne appeared to have nowhere to go when he picked the ball up in the right hand corner but, after one attempt at a cross had been blocked, he somehow managed to squeeze the ball in at the second attempt and Feeney was ideally placed at the near post to fire home high into the net from a yard or so out.

If that was a scrappy goal from Norwich's point of view then Luton's



BAD TO WORSE: With the game lost, City had salt rubbed into their wounds loan ace will now miss Saturday's clash against QPR.

second was a complete and utter calamity.

Green has let a few curious goals in in his time – David Johnson's cheeky effort at Nottingham Forest and the air kick that gave Darren Kenton an unwanted goal at Derby are the examples that immediately spring to mind. But Edwards' 27th-minute effort was right up there with the best, or should that be worst, of them.

There seemed to be absolutely no danger when the right-back, who was some 40 yards out, swung in a cross from near the touchline but as he back-tracked to gather the ball the City keeper lost his footing, and could only watch in horror as the ball drifted into the back of the net.

Green then had to endure some sarcastic chants of "England's No 1" from a set of fans who obviously don't watch him week in week out, but he wasted little time in partially restoring his reputation at Kenilworth Road when he made an excellent stop to keep out a fierce snap shot from Holmes.

One hoped that was a sign of better things for the Canaries but, sadly, it wasn't long before things were going from bad to worse.

On 34 minutes the jubilant home fans were celebrating another goal when a move down the centre ended with Feeney laying the ball into the path of Holmes, who cracked home a glorious first-time shot to put the home side completely in control.

And the nightmare first half was duly completed five minutes before the break when the newly promoted Hatters made it 4-0.

This time the ball came into the Norwich box from the right flank and once Holmes' cross met the head of the towering Howard there was only one result with Green having to pick the ball out of the back of the net for the fourth time in just 26 minutes.

The shell-shocked Canaries almost reduced the arrears on the stroke of half-time when a Davenport header came back off the post before being scrambled to safety but it was no more than a damage limitation exercise for the visitors at that point after suffering their worst first half since conceding four before the break at Preston during the early stages of the 2001/2 season.

Norwich had little but pride to play for when the second half got underway but they showed they had it in

Pictures: LEE EARLE/SPORTSBEAT IMAGES

Town pegged back at home

Ipswich 2, Coventry 2

Goals either side of half-time from Gary McSheffrey and Lilian Nalis saw Coventry fight back valiantly from two goals down to grab a potentially vital point against Ipswich at Portman Road.

The hosts had come into the game clutching a fine unbeaten record against the Sky Blues stretching back to 1994 and did not look relinquishing their grip on their opponents, moving into a two-goal lead via strikes from Darren Currie and Jimmy Juan.

But Micky Adams' side fought back superbly, as first McSheffrey – on the stroke of half-time – and then Nalis soon after pulled them level and ultimately sealed a point.

With patchy Coca-Cola Championship form from both teams this season, it came as no surprise the game started at a sedate pace.

Neither side looked likely to break through in the opening 15 minutes with McSheffrey twice chancing his arm more in hope than expectation.

The Sky Blues, without a win away from home this term, did gradually begin to take control only to then concede in a manner that befits their lacklustre campaign.

Richard Duffy handled the ball on the right flank, allowing Currie to swing in a dangerous free-kick that somehow avoided all in the crowded area and slipped into the Coventry net.

The goal revitalised the home crowd and propelled the hosts into more purposeful attacking play.

Adam Proudlock, making his first start since arriving on loan from Sheffield

Wednesday came close while visiting goalkeeper Stephen Bywater, stranded for the first goal, was able to deal with a well-struck effort from Luis Castro Sito.

The Sky Blues were soon two behind however. A free-kick from an almost identical position to the opener was swung in by Kevin Horlock.

But this time, it took a clever header from Juan, on as a substitute for the injured Owen Garvan, to deflect it past Bywater.

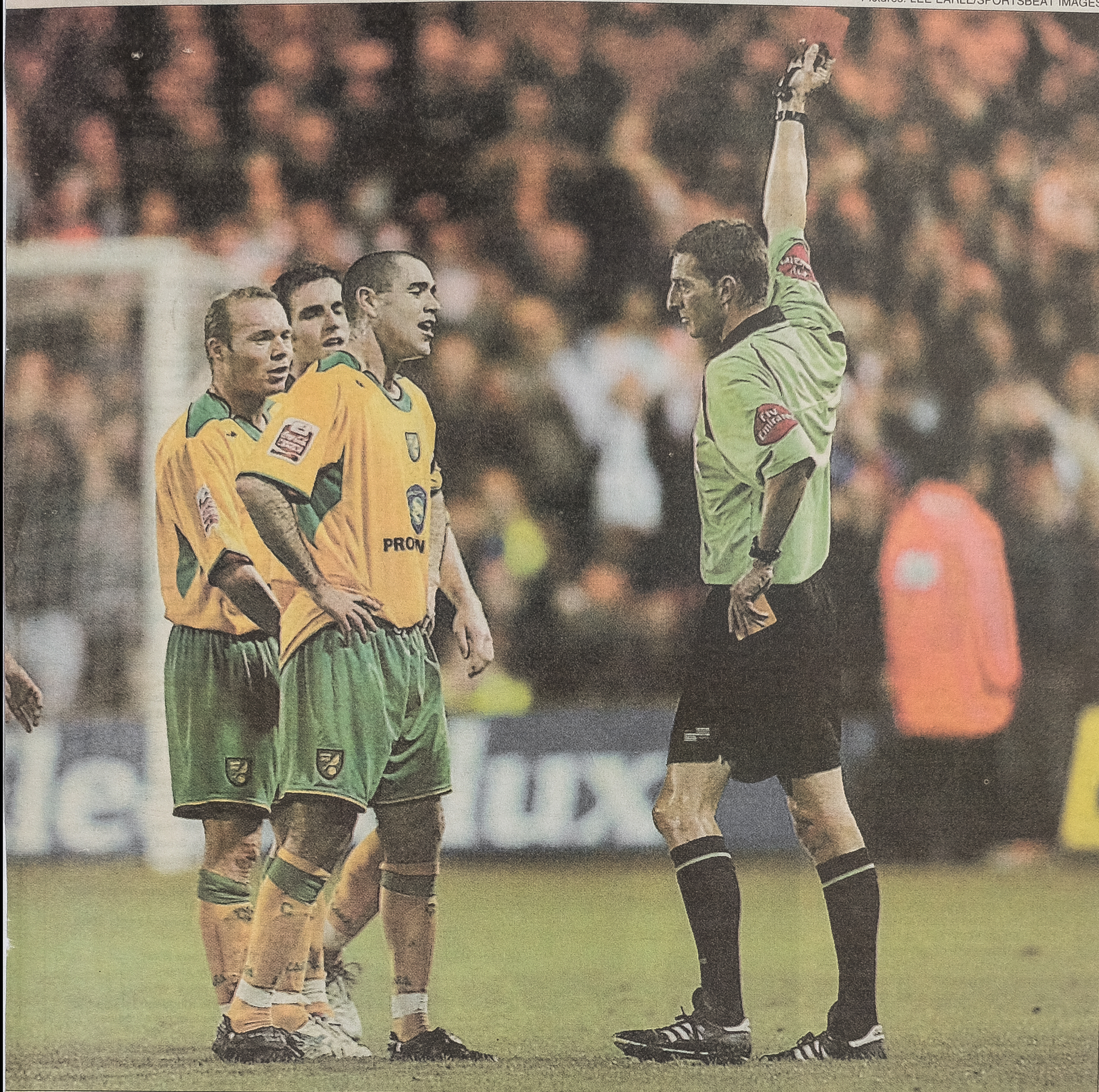
Coventry looked stunned with another heavy defeat suddenly on the cards.

A goal back just before half-time was desperately needed – and soon provided – as McSheffrey got in on the act.

Adebola served up a tasty knock-down that the homegrown striker duly crashed past Price.

The visitors made the most of their momentum as the second half got under way and soon managed to claw their way back on terms.

Again Adebola provided the muscle, nodding down 12 yards out and allowing Lilian Nalis to head an equaliser past Price – his first goal for the Sky Blues after joining on loan from Sheffield United.



with the dismissal of defender Calum Davenport, left. The on-

abundance as they took the game to their opponents in commendable, if overdue fashion.

With Ryan Jarvis replacing the ineffective Paul McVeigh the Canaries completely dominated the early exchanges with Henderson seeing a curling shot brilliantly chipped over by Beresford and Ashton being denied by Ahmet Brkovic, who cleared his goal-bound header off the line.

By now it was beginning to look as though Norwich could play all night without scoring but justice was done on 55 minutes when Ashton shoved Henderson out of the way on the edge of the area before burying a powerful low drive into the bottom corner.

It was the £3m striker's seventh strike of the season and did something to improve the morale of the brow-beaten fans behind the goal.

All in all it was a decent response from a well-beaten side, but Luton gradually re-established themselves in the middle of the park and might have stretched their lead on the hour mark when

a Howard header from a right wing corner flashed narrowly off target.

The game died something of a slow death in the 30 minutes that followed but there was still time for Norwich to be reduced to 10 men, and pull another goal back.

Davenport was the man to see red on 80 minutes after a tackle from behind on Howard. The on-loan defender had already been booked for an earlier foul so it was no surprise when he was dismissed for a second clumsy challenge.

Losing Davenport for a game was the last thing Norwich needed at that stage but at least they had the small consolation of another goal, with substitute Jarvis making it 4-2 five minutes from the end. Ashton was the architect, swinging in a delightful cross from the left which his young strike partner headed home in some style to take his senior tally for the Canaries up to three.

It was an appropriate finale to a spirited second-half showing from the visitors – but by then the damage had been well and truly done.



MORE TO COME: Luton's Peter Holmes (far left) is congratulated by Dean Morgan after he scored the Hatters' third goal.