

BLUES KEEPER IS SO SUPPLE

IPSWICH TOWN 1

Westlake 68

LUTON TOWN 0

Att: 23,957 Rating: ★★/★

JOE ROYLE hailed the character of his Ipswich Town side as they halted their slide down the table.

One win from nine had left the Blues in the bottom eight but substitute Ian Westlake grabbed the only goal to defeat a dogged Luton Town outfit.

"It was a fantastic win, great spirit," said Ipswich manager Royle. "I thought we deserved it and we defended well."

"People can question our team, myself, chairman or board, but do not question our spirit."

Westlake scored his second of the season in the 68th minute when he collected a long pass from Darren Currie, held off a challenge from Luton's Kevin Foley and calmly finished past Marlon Beresford.

However, the Blues were indebted to teenage goalkeeper Shane Supple, who made a number of fine saves as the Suffolk side kept their fifth clean sheet of the season.

Supple, 18, who helped Ipswich win the FA Youth Cup in May, had been playing as regular first-team goalkeeper Lewis Price was struggling with a groin injury that saw him only named as a substitute.

But Supple produced a fine save to deny Steve Robinson's close-range diving header and then made a superb one-handed stop to push Kevin Nicholls' effort on to a post.

Royle was delighted with Supple's performance and believes he has a bright future in the game.

"I have been saying that we have got the best two young goalkeepers in the country and we have seen that," he said.

An injury crisis saw Royle start the match with 17-year-old forward Danny Haynes, who was making his full home debut.

His strike partner Dean Bowditch, who last scored for Ipswich in October 2004, had a glorious chance to get his first goal of the season in the 37th minute.

He broke clear of the defence and chased on to a hopeful ball from Fabian Wilnis that left him with only Beresford to beat.

But the Luton goalkeeper did well to deny the striker and Markus Heikkinen blocked a follow-up attempt from Haynes before Bowditch fired

By **MICHAEL EMONS**

the loose ball over from six yards.

Mike Newell's side ended the first half strongly, but failed to make a breakthrough as Paul Underwood and Ahmet Brkovic both failed to test Supple when well-placed.

The Hatters continued to create opportunities after the restart, but Westlake grabbed the decisive goal midway through the second-half.

However, the hosts had a fortunate escape in the 76th minute when substitute Steve Howard thought he had equalised.

He headed home a Nicholls corner, but referee Andy D'Urso disallowed the goal as he adjudged that Steve Robinson had fouled Supple.

Howard again had an opportunity to salvage a point but he headed Robinson's cross over the bar in the dying minutes.

Luton's play-off hopes could be dashed if their form on the road does not improve. They have now only collected one point from their last eight away matches.

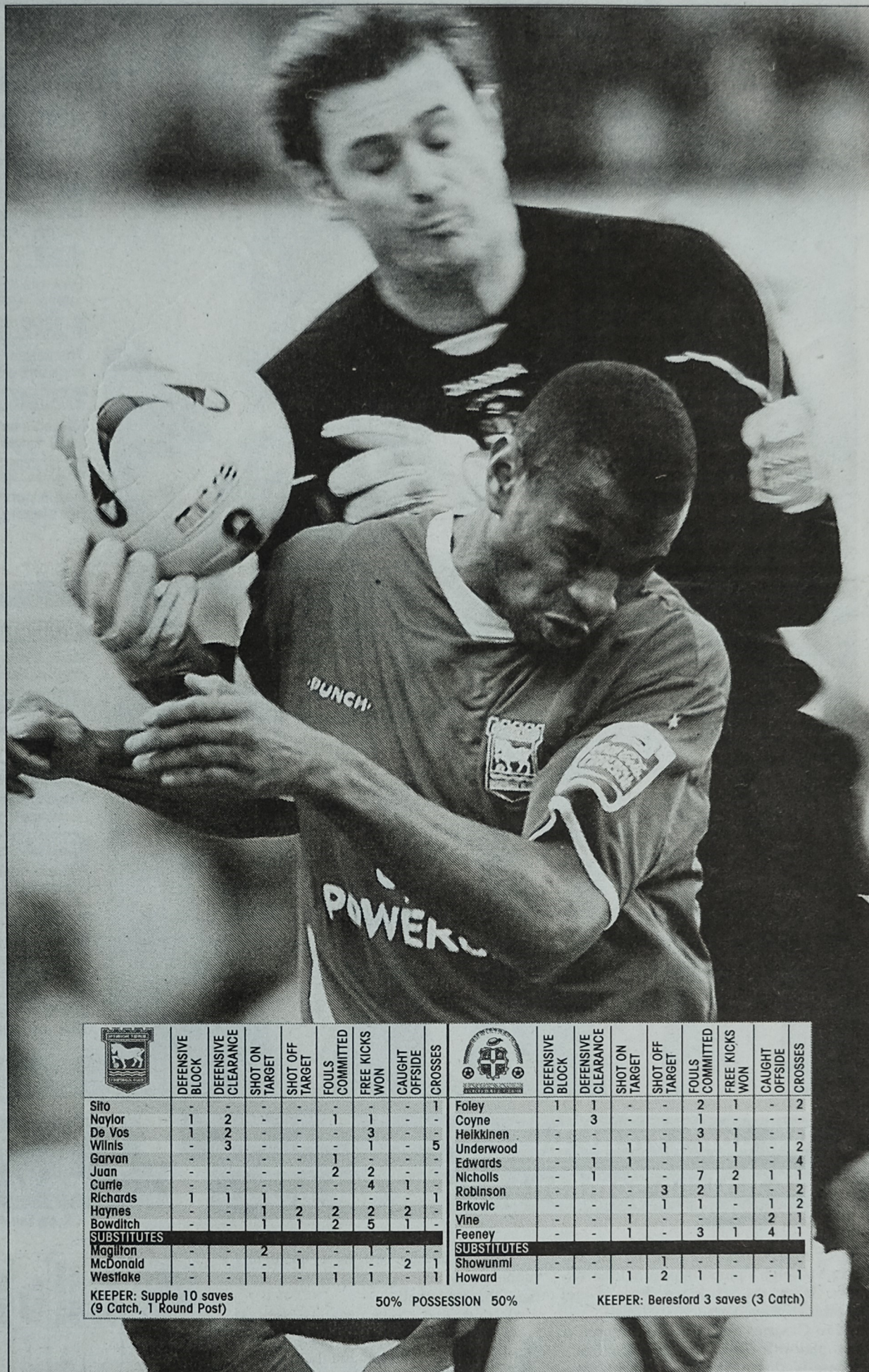
Newell said: "We aren't playing differently to what we are at home and I don't know what to put it down to."

"People look at the results and say our form is not good, but it is. It's the results that we aren't getting."

"It's annoying because we have got a decent side that could be up there."

"When we play at home we show a bit more conviction and belief."

STAR MAN: SHANE SUPPLE (Ipswich Town)



IPSWICH TOWN	DEFENSIVE BLOCK	DEFENSIVE CLEARANCE	SHOT ON TARGET	SHOT OFF TARGET	FOULS COMMITTED	FREE KICKS WON	CAUGHT OFFSIDE	CROSSES	LUTON TOWN	DEFENSIVE BLOCK	DEFENSIVE CLEARANCE	SHOT ON TARGET	SHOT OFF TARGET	FOULS COMMITTED	FREE KICKS WON	CAUGHT OFFSIDE	CROSSES
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sito	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Foley	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	2
Naylor	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	Coyne	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
De Vos	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	Heikkinen	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wilnis	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	5	Underwood	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	2
Garvan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Edwards	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	4
Juan	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	Nicholls	-	1	-	-	7	2	1	1
Currie	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	Robinson	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	2
Richards	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	Brkovic	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2
Haynes	-	-	1	2	2	2	2	-	Vine	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1
Bowditch	-	-	1	1	2	5	1	-	Feeney	-	-	1	-	3	1	4	1
SUBSTITUTES									SUBSTITUTES								
Magilton	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	Showunmi	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
McDonald	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	Howard	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	1
Westlake	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1									

KEEPER: Supple 10 saves (9 Catch, 1 Round Post)

50% POSSESSION 50%

KEEPER: Beresford 3 saves (3 Catch)

CLOSE CALL: Ipswich's Danny Haynes, front, and Luton's Marlon Beresford battle for the ball

PICTURE: Action Images

IPSWICH

PLAYER RATINGS

SHANE SUPPLE 8/10

Young goalkeeper was brave and made crucial saves

SITO CASTRO 5/10

Wasted possession on a number of occasions before limping off

JASON DE VOS 7/10

Excellent block denied Robinson a shooting opportunity

RICHARD NAYLOR 6/10

Will be pleased with rare clean sheet

FABIAN WILNIS 7/10

Caused Luton problems down the right flank

DARREN CURRIE 6/10

His set-pieces are vital for Ipswich

MATT RICHARDS 7/10

Versatile player who coped well in number of positions

OWEN GARVAN 7/10

Midfielder who looks to have a bright future in the game

JIMMY JUAN 7/10

Composed performance and rarely gave the ball away

DEAN BOWDITCH 6/10

Worked hard but looks short of confidence and needs a goal

DANNY HAYNES 7/10

Unlucky not to score and will have learnt a lot

SUBSTITUTES

Jim Magilton - added vital experience, 6; Dean McDonald - pushed off ball too easily, 6; Ian Westlake - well-taken goal secured points, 7

LUTON

PLAYER RATINGS

MARLON BERESFORD 7/10

Did well to deny Bowditch and Haynes from close-range

PAUL UNDERWOOD 7/10

Fine defending and he started a number of Luton attacks

CHRIS COYNE 7/10

Marshalled Luton defence well as Ipswich failed to create much

MARKUS HEIKKINEN 6/10

Blocked a goal-bound effort from Haynes

KEVIN FOLEY 5/10

Will be unhappy with his defending for Westlake's goal

AHMET BRKOVIC 7/10

Should have hit the target with late first-half effort

KEVIN NICHOLLS 7/10

Linked up well with Luton front two

STEVE ROBINSON 7/10

Diving header produced a fine one-handed save from Supple

CARLOS EDWARDS 6/10

Solid if unspectacular performance

ROWAN VINE 6/10

Caused problems early on but quiet second-half

WARREN FEENEY 6/10

Ineffective and replaced with half hour remaining

SUBSTITUTES

Enoch Showunmi - shot wide after late run, 6; Steve Howard - Unlucky, header disallowed, 7; Leon Barnett - Solid defensive performance, 6

'I've been saying that we have got the best two young keepers in the country'

Joe Royle

'When we play at home we show a bit more conviction and belief'

Mike Newell