

Hatters stumble when it matters

05/06

Luton	1
Leicester	2

CHRIS O'Grady's late strike snatched three valuable points for Leicester, who boosted their hopes of beating the drop in their hard-fought win at Luton.

Luton were left battered and bruised after they lost two players to injury and their slim chances of a play-off place suffered as O'Grady hit the winner.

Before either side could get into their stride in the first half, Luton were dealt an early blow as Kevin Nicholls left the field struggling with an injury and was replaced by David Bell.

The visitors piled forward, hoping to take advantage of their hosts' setback, and Matt Fryatt drilled a smart shot wide from the edge of the box shortly before Richard Stearman put the ball wide of the same post.

Leicester continued to push for the opener as Iain Hume curled a delightful shot into the arms of Luton goalkeeper Marlon Beresford but with 15 minutes played, the Foxes broke the deadlock.

Gareth Williams' intelligent pass picked out the run of Fryatt, who advanced into the area and landed a powerful shot past Beresford and into the corner of the net.

Clearly aggrieved, Luton hit back by upping the physical battle in midfield and Leicester's chances soon dried up.

Steve Howard went close for the Hatters as Carlos Edwards' cross picked him out and he applied a clean finish, only to see his header crash onto a post.

Edwards' cross was hammered towards goal by Howard but Paul Henderson was equal to it.

The Leicester goalkeeper was powerless moments later, though, to stop the striker grabbing the equaliser, when substitute Warren Feeney flicked Paul Underwood's corner into the path of Howard, whose diving header at the far post sent the ball into the net.

Underwood continued to provide the Hatters strikers with some fine deliveries and his cross teed Feeney up to head wide, shortly before Howard lashed a volley into Henderson's arms from 30-yards.

Leicester were struggling to get out of their own half but did create a chance on the hour mark, when Fryatt volleyed a shot goalwards for Beresford to claim gratefully.

Luton lost a second player to injury when Paul Underwood limped off and Enoch Showunmi was sent on to replace him.

The change did not stem the flow of Luton's attack and Showunmi himself fired just wide from 20-yards.

But as the second half entered its closing 10 minutes, Leicester rallied and substitute Andrew Welsh fired wide from 12-yards.

With three minutes remaining, Welsh turned provider as his pass found O'Grady, who lashed home from inside the area to steal the win.