

A right, Royle disaster



LUTON TOWN

Howard 81

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IPSWICH TOWN

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05/06

By **JAMIE PATTENDEN**

IPSWICH boss Joe Royle was left fuming at the final whistle after his side waved the white flag and failed to register a win for the fifth game on the spin.

Steve Howard scored the all-important winning goal ten minutes from time as Luton leapfrogged Ipswich, leaving Royle's men a massive 14 points off the play-off places.

But for a heroic performance from Ipswich goalkeeper Shane Supple, Royle could have been on the receiving end of a mauling at Kenilworth Road.

"Our midfield couldn't get going, we didn't defend well and we didn't create enough chances," said Royle. "All in all I was very disappointed with that performance."

"We knew the play-offs were going to be a long shot but we've still got plenty to play for because we want to finish as high up the table as possible."

"I have a few ideas of how we're going to change things and what we're going to do in the future - there will be changes for our next game."

Trinidad & Tobago star Carlos Edwards looked to have broken the deadlock just past the 15 minute mark but he was unable to stab his effort goal-bound past Supple.

Darren Currie finally kick-started a below-par Ipswich, firing a powerful shot from outside the penalty area that Luton goalkeeper Marlon Beresford tipped over the crossbar.

Supple twice came to his side's rescue midway through the first-half, as he expertly smothered at the feet of Kevin Foley, before bravely blocking an effort from Steve Robinson just 60 seconds later.

With Ipswich looking hell-bent on pressing the self-destruct button, Supple continued his one-man campaign to keep the scores all-square.

On 32 minutes, he denied Rowan Vine with a smart save and just five minutes later prevented the impressive Howard from adding to his season's tally.

Ipswich were left fuming as the half-time whistle approached as they were denied a penalty. Alan Lee's header played in Jimmy Juan inside the penalty area but under a strong challenge from Luton's Markus Heikkinen, the Town attacker went down. Despite the protests, referee Lee Mason waved away the Ipswich appeals.

"The referee gave a penalty, he pointed to the spot and then he changed his mind," added Royle. "He knew he had made mistake, I could tell by his body language but it was too late."

"We should have been 1-0 ahead at the break but over the 90 minutes we didn't have enough players who performed."

MATCH STATS

LUTON v IPSWICH

6	Shots on target	3
8	Shots off target	4
6	Corners	7
10	Offside	6
13	Fouls conceded	8
4	Yellow cards	0
0	Red cards	0

Att: 9,820 Rating: ★★★/★★

LUTON TOWN: Beresford 5, Foley 6, Davis 5, Coyne 6, Perrett 7, Heikkinen 4 (Showunmi 5), Edwards 7, Robinson 7, Morgan 5 (Brkovic 5), Howard 9, Vine 7 (Feeney 6). Subs not used: Bell, Brill.

IPSWICH TOWN: Supple 9, Wilnis 6, Richards 6 (Bowditch 5), De Vos 7, Naylor 6, Sito 6 (Haynes 5), Juan 8, Garvan 6, McEveley 5, Lee 6, Currie 7. Subs not used: Casement, Brekke-Skard, Price.

When your best player is your goalkeeper then you know it has been a tough game."

Mike Newell's Luton started the second-half with Dean Morgan creating himself an opening before he blazed over.

And just minutes later, Vine created an opening for Edwards but again Supple kept the scores all-square with a smart block.

Ipswich attempted to reverse the one-way traffic and just past the hour mark Juan caused confusion with a well-taken free-kick.

Luton finally located their scoring touch ten minutes from time as Howard headed home his 15th goal of the season from an Ahmet Brkovic cross.

Howard should have added a second goal just minutes later but he headed over when well-placed, while Warren Feeney blazed over from close range.

Luton boss Newell added: "They had a bit of pressure at times and had a penalty that wasn't given but these things happen to you and we had the same thing at Leeds."

STAR MAN: STEVE HOWARD
(Luton Town)