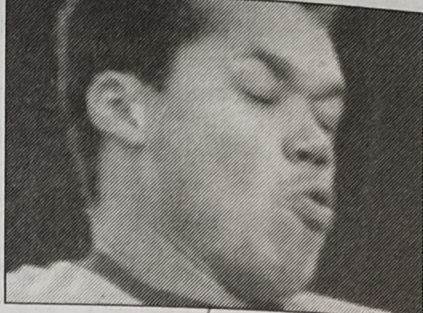


Hatters make it two straight

Sheffield Wednesday ..0
Luton1



06/07

LEWIS Emanuel's (pictured) first goal for Luton was enough to maintain the Hatters' impressive start to the season as Sheffield Wednesday's home campaign began in disappointing fashion.

The summer signing from Bradford unleashed a low 25-yard strike which deflected past on loan Owls goalkeeper Brad Jones in first half stoppage-time.

With Lee Bullen having lost his appeal against his opening day sending off, the injury-hit hosts gave a debut to summer signing Kenny Lunt.

Luton were unchanged from the side that beat Leicester.

In a pulsating start, the visitors almost opened the scoring inside the first 20 seconds, John Hills heading Warren Feeney's follow-up clear after Jones had saved at the feet of Carlos Edwards.

Moments later, Wednesday full back Frank Simek had a penalty shout waved away, while lone front man Steve MacLean's turn and shot was narrowly wide.

There was no let-up to the frenzied opening, Jones with a superb point-blank stop from Feeney after Edwards' ball was headed back across goal.

As the game finally settled down, a neat Luton build-up ended with Richard Langley's first-time shot over the bar.

Lunt was enjoying a fine debut and his free kick was nodded over by Chris Brunt.

Winger Brunt swung in an even better cross just before the half-hour, MacLean guilty of not finding the target with his header.

At the other end, the lively Edwards tried a dipping volley that bent narrowly wide.

He then provided what should have been the opener with a low cross Langley completely mis-controlled.

The best chance of the half seemed to have fallen to Burton O'Brien, who raced clean through, only to see his low finish turned away brilliantly by Marlon Beresford.

But Emanuel had the final say of the half with his deflected opener.

After the break, Wednesday resorted to underhand tactics as Lunt blotted his copybook with a dive in the area.

He was soon replaced by another debutant, Wade Small, as manager Paul Sturrock attempted to engineer a comeback by throwing Brunt up front.

Luton nearly made the Owls boss' task doubly difficult when Feeney's cross-cum-shot was tipped round the post by Jones.

Leon Barnett's challenge stopped Brunt netting a certain equaliser, then Madjid Bougherra mirrored Barnett's tenacity to thwart Feeney at the other end.

Wednesday's midfield anchor-man Yoann Folly picked up an injury that saw him carried off to be replaced by Sean McAllister and the 18-year-old should have levelled when he headed an O'Brien cross unchallenged over the bar.

However, the youngster did much better with a rasping 30-yard volley that shaved the outside of the post but the visitors held on.