



CARDIFF

NEIL ALEXANDER 8/10

Continued his fine form by making a number of top quality saves

GLENN LOOVENS 8/10

Won every ball in the air and was rock solid on the ground

KERREA GILBERT 7/10

Mistimed a few tackles but his speed helped him recover. Can still improve

RICCARDO SCIMECA 7/10

Having a great season. Sat in front of the back four and also got forward

KEVIN MCNAUGHTON 8/10

Another brilliant performance from the Scotland full-back, never looked troubled

DARREN PURSE 8/10

City are best when their skipper is in the thick of the action, he was today

PAUL PARRY 8/10

In full flow down the wing and crowned his performance with a superb goal

JOE LEDLEY 7/10

Did his work on the left of midfield and filled in at full-back later on

STEPHEN MCPHAIL 7/10

Steady performance and rarely gave the ball away. Set up a number of chances

MICHAEL CHOPRA 9/10

Took his goals superbly and was a constant threat to the visitors' defence

STEVEN THOMPSON 7/10

Leading the line well and playing at the top of his form. Deserved a goal

SUBSTITUTES

KAMARA FOR MCNAUGHTON (75)

FLOOD FOR PARRY (83)

GLOMBARD FOR THOMPSON (88)

NOT USED: JOHNSON, CAMPBELL

STAR PLAYERS

Michael Chopra

Rowan Vine



STAR RATING 9



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LUTON

MARLON BERESFORD 6/10

No chance with the goals but commanded his area when City dominated

LEON BARNETT 7/10

Pulled all over the place by Thompson and Chopra, endured a torrid afternoon

SOL DAVIS 6/10

Sacrificed following the sending-off and had little time to make an impression

KEVIN FOLEY 7/10

Switched into midfield when Emanuel was dismissed, the game passed him by

MARKUS HEIKKINEN 6/10

Mobile defender who spent much of the afternoon chasing Bluebirds' shadows

LEWIS EMANUEL 4/10

Sent-off

RICHARD LANGLEY 7/10

Found it difficult at first to overcome the boos, but settled down well in midfield

STEVE ROBINSON 7/10

He covered the ground competing for the ball, but had little impact overall

CARLOS EDWARDS 8/10

The winger was forced back into a more defensive role, still caused City problems

SAM PARKIN 7/10

Had a good tussle with Loovens but was generally held by the Dutch defender

ROWAN VINE 9/10

Worked hard throughout the game and rewarded with a goal on half-time

SUBSTITUTES

COYNE FOR DAVIS (23) 8/10

MORGAN FOR PARKIN (46) 7/10

NOT USED: BRILL; BRKOVIC; FEENEY

HATTERS ARE GIVEN THE CHOP

Ten-man Town hit for four

CARDIFF CITY swept back to the top of the Championship table after beating ten-man Luton Town at Ninian Park.

The visitors were up against it from the ninth minute when Lewis Emanuel was sent off for fisting away a goalbound header from Riccardo Scimeca.

Bluebirds skipper Darren Purse slotted the resulting spot-kick into the net and City were on their way.

Paul Parry scored a second on the half-hour and, although Rowan Vine pulled one back in first-half stoppage-time, two Michael Chopra strikes in the second period gave the Bluebirds a deserved victory.

Cardiff showed one change from the side which were held to a 3-3 draw at Plymouth with Glenn Loovens back after suspension in place of Roger Johnson.

The Hatters fielded the side that drew with Colchester as former Bluebird Richard Langley returned to Ninian Park.

The game turned in Cardiff's favour when a Parry corner was headed goalwards by Scimeca. Emanuel appeared to fist the ball away and, although the referee allowed play to continue, his assistant flagged for the offence.

Once Purse had put away the spot-kick, Cardiff piled forward in an attempt to put the game beyond the Hatters.

They should have added a second in the 28th minute when Chopra sent Stephen McPhail clear but Hatters keeper Marlon Beresford stretched to block his shot.

Two minutes later the second goal did arrive with a superb strike by Parry. Chopra sprinted through the middle and released the winger who curled a left-footed shot into the far corner of the net.

By **MICHAEL WILLIAMS**

Luton resorted to heaving the ball out of defence and their front two of Sam Parkin and Vine caused problems for the hosts. However, it came as a shock as the first half drew to a close when the City defence stood off and Vine hammered a low shot into the net from close range.

Luton started the second half boosted by that goal and Leon Barnett powered a header from a Langley corner goalwards but Neil Alexander gathered under the crossbar.

City restored their two-goal lead on the hour with a superb strike from Chopra. McPhail hit a cross-field pass to Steven Thompson who headed back across goal for the onrushing Chopra to rifle home.

Chopra was on the mark again in the 77th minute when substitute Malvin Kamara crossed from the right and the former Newcastle striker beat his marker to the ball before side-footing home from close range.

There was still time for Chopra to go close as he looked for his hat-trick but



ALL OVER: Michael Chopra celebrates after scoring Cardiff's fourth