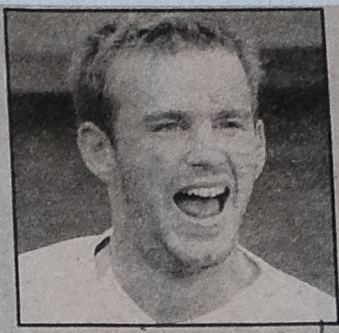




DOUBLE: Vine 06/07

ROWAN JUST DE-VINE FOR HOT HATTERS

Luton 3 Birmingham 2

ROWAN VINE is motoring for success with Luton since ending his commuting nightmare.

The Hatters striker took his goal tally for the season to eight as he bagged a brace to sink Birmingham at Kenilworth Road.

And Vine is convinced that his red-hot form is due to the fact he no longer has to make a 70-mile trip to training every day.

During the summer, Vine moved his family from their home in Basingstoke in order to give him more time on the training pitch.

And if his scoring streak continues then he could soon find himself among the Premiership big guns.

Vine, 24, said: "I haven't looked back since moving the family up here.

"I only live five minutes from the training ground now, so you can always stay around a lot longer and you don't have to worry about traffic.

"I had to travel up the M3, M25 and M1, and when we played Reading last year I didn't get here until after 7pm. And it was a 7.45 kick-off!

"I'd left home at about four, so that shows it could take anything between an hour and a half to three and a half hours to get here.

Dream

"I feel fitter than ever at the moment, and the goals are going in. I feel like I'm going to score whenever I play."

This win lifts promotion hopefuls Luton into seventh, and leaves them level with Birmingham on 18 points.

And Vine added: "It's everyone's dream to play in the Premiership and as long as I keep doing well I give myself a chance."

Birmingham went ahead on 14 minutes as DJ Campbell finished brilliantly after a Gary McSheffrey through ball.

But two minutes of sloppiness cost them dear as Vine slotted home a 28th-minute penalty, and followed it up with a poacher's strike just 60 seconds later.

Steve Bruce's men rallied for a leveller, and found one with Neil Danns' lobbed effort from the edge of the box.

But substitute David Bell had the last laugh as he fired his first Luton goal nine minutes from time to win the game.

Blues are reeling after picking up just one win from their last five league games, and Arsenal loan star Sebastian Larsson has called on his side to show they can bounce back.

He said: "It's a long season but we don't want that gap at the top opening up too much.

"We can't keep coming up with excuses."