

Leeds humiliated

LUTON

Edwards (12, 90), Vine (55), Bell (56), Heikkinen (73)

LEEDS UNITED

Foxe (17)

By **Mick Collins**



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JUST a few weeks ago, Leeds caretaker manager John Carver was having to reassure people that he had not, as yet, been offered the post on a permanent basis.

Having seen his side thrashed by a competent if unspectacular Luton team, the denials are no longer required. Four straight defeats do not make a convincing job application.

'When I saw the opportunity, I thought it was a great one,' he said. 'But if you look at our results towards the end of last season, there is something that has not been right there, and that's carried on this season.'

'There needs to be an influx of new players at this football club: fresh legs, youth, experience, and it needs looking at.'

It took Mike Newell's side 12 minutes to exploit the defensive frailties which have seen Leeds plunge to second bottom. Prodding the ball beyond Hayden Foxe and surging beyond the onrushing figure of Neil Sullivan, Carlos Edwards kept his footing to slide a shot inside the far post as the visiting back four stood and stared.

'We played some lovely stuff,' said Newell. 'It's always nice to get five. We thought, if we got one, we might get

two or three, but not five. That sort of sums up how Leeds are going.'

'I don't want to knock anyone when they're down, but it's impossible to get any consistency with the changes they've made at all levels of the club.'

Against the run of play, it took Leeds just five minutes to equalise as Foxe leapt through a crowded goalmouth to power home Ian Westlake's corner with a close-range header.

The ponderous nature of their defending was ultimately Leeds'

We need signings to halt slump, pleads Carver



HAVING A BALL: Markus Heikkinen (centre) adds to Leeds' misery with Luton's fourth

Picture: JED LEICESTER

undoing, however, as Luton scored twice in two minutes early in the second half. Foxe allowed a through-ball to slip by, and watched as Warren Feeney sped past before turning the ball across goal for Rowan Vine to push it home with his chest.

Moments later, Edwards was allowed time and space to drift in from the right flank and pull back a cross to Vine. His snatched shot found David Bell on the far post, who calmly turned into an empty net with the

Leeds back four frozen to the spot. After 73 minutes, the unmarked Markus Heikkinen headed home Steve Robinson's free-kick, before Edwards made it five in injury time, sliding to tuck away Vine's low cross.

LUTON (4-4-2): Beresford; Davis, Heikkinen, Barnett, Foley; Robinson (O'Leary 81min), Morgan (Keane 84), Bell, Edwards; Vine, Feeney (Boyd 82). Subs (not used): Langley, Brill.

LEEDS (4-4-2): Sullivan; Crainey, Butler, Foxe, Kelly; Johnson, Westlake (Lewis 71), Derry, Douglas; Cresswell (Moore 72), Blake (Healy 63). Subs (not used): Richardson, Warner. Booked: Westlake, Foxe.

Referee: G Hedgley (Hertfordshire).