



LUTON TOWN..5 LEEDS UNITED..1

Edwards 12, 90, Vine 55, Bell 56, Heikkinen

Foxe 17



CARVER GAG AS LEEDS CRASH

Boss refuses to talk after thrashing

By BRIAN HOWARD

LUTON TOWN scored four second-half goals as Mike Newell's side ran up a convincing win over a poor Leeds United side at Kenilworth Road.

The teams went in level at the interval after an even first period that saw Hayden Foxe cancel out Carlos Edwards' opener.

But it was a different story in the second 45 minutes as Town ran riot with further strikes from Rowan Vine, David Bell, Markus Heikkinen and Edwards again.

Luton's Warren Feeney was eager to claim his first league goal since December 2005 and it almost came within 50 seconds of the kick-off after a well-worked Town move.

The Irishman dummied Edwards' throw-in and spun on to Vine's header before smashing an angled 14-yard volley just past the far post.

Leeds soaked up Luton's brisk start and created an opening in the eighth minute when Ian Westlake hit a goal-bound shot from Adam Johnson's corner, which was hacked away among the mass of bodies in the six-yard area.

Shaun Derry's lofted pass into the area then found Robbie Blake in space in the 11th minute, but the former Burnley man could only hit a wild left-footed shot that went out for a throw-in.

Instead it was Luton that went ahead a minute later with some slick play down the right-hand side. Bell found Vine on the touchline, who in turn flicked the ball on for the advancing Edwards.

He seemed to have been stopped by Westlake's tackle, but the ball fell to Vine who instantly slipped in Edwards to round Neil Sullivan and slide home from a tight angle.

Leeds responded positively and drew level in the 17th minute when Johnson, after winning a corner with a burst into the box, crossed for Foxe to head home unchallenged from six yards.

The second half began at a sedate pace, but soon burst into life when Luton blasted two goals in the space of three minutes.

Feeney was the provider for the first when he raced on to Kevin Foley's 54th minute pass down the right channel and crossed for Vine to bundle home off his chest from two yards out.

Then, moments later, Edwards ran on to Feeney's clever pass, beat Paul Butler and squared for Vine to scuff a shot into the path of Bell, who made no mistake from four yards.

As Leeds' efforts faded away, Luton grabbed a fourth when Heikkinen headed

MATCH STATS

LUTON v LEEDS

9	Shots on target	3
5	Shots off target	5
5	Corners	7
7	Offside	1
13	Fouls conceded	6
0	Yellow Cards	2
0	Red Cards	0
52	Possession %	48

Att: 10,260 Rating: ★★★★★

Ref: G Hedgley - 7/10

home Steve Robinson's deep 73rd minute cross. Edwards got his second of the day to wrap matters up in stoppage time as he touched home Vine's cross from the left.

Newell purred: "We played some decent stuff at times in the second half and it's not often you win 5-1.

"I'm not a statistician, but it's got to be a very long time since Luton beat a team like Leeds by that margin.

"We started quite well and got about them, but some bad organisation at the back from a set-piece let them back into it and gave them something to hang on to.

"It let them into it for a period of the game, but we felt if we could get one more then two or three others would follow, but we didn't expect it would be five."

Leeds United caretaker boss John Carver, his coaching assistant and his players refused to speak to the media after the rout.



ON THE WAY: Carlos Edwards scores for Luton

PICTURE: Gerry McManus



MIKE NEWELL

I'M NOT a statistician, but it's got to be a very long time since Luton beat a team like Leeds by that margin.

We started quite well and got about them, but some bad organisation at the back from a set-piece let them back into it and gave them something to hang on to.



JOHN CARVER

Refused to speak to the Press after the match.

LUTON

MARLON BERESFORD 7/10

Was troubled by some of Leeds' set-pieces and looked far from certain

LEON BARNETT 8/10

A strong performance from the youngster, didn't give Richard Cresswell an inch

SOL DAVIS 7/10

Solid in the tackle, swept up when necessary and bombed up and down the left

KEVIN FOLEY 7/10

Had a tough tussle with Adam Johnson, but still managed to get forward later on

MARKUS HEIKKINEN 7/10

Looked slightly susceptible in the air at set-pieces, but got on the scoresheet

DEAN MORGAN 6/10

Ran at the Leeds defence at every opportunity, but covered well in defence too

DAVID BELL 7/10

Kept it simple when required, but still put in some strong runs from deep

STEVE ROBINSON 8/10

Skipper returned from a bout of tonsillitis to put in a gritty performance in midfield

CARLOS EDWARDS 9/10

Unstoppable show on the right flank, the star of the show for Town

WARREN FEENEY 7/10

Worked tirelessly throughout, held up the ball well and set up Vine's goal

ROWAN VINE 8/10

Another busy display from the striker, bagged his ninth goal of the season

SUBSTITUTES

O'LEARY; FOR ROBINSON (81)
BOYD; FOR FEENEY (82)
KEANE; FOR MORGAN (84)
NOT USED: BRILL; LANGLEY

STAR PLAYERS

Carlos Edwards

Adam Johnson



STAR RATING 9



STAR RATING 7

LEEDS

NEIL SULLIVAN 6/10

An afternoon he will want to forget although he pulled off some good saves

HAYDEN FOXE 6/10

Scored a good goal and looked comfortable in the first half, but tired later on

GARY KELLY 5/10

Promising start as he got forward on the right, but that all changed after the break

STEPHEN CRAINEY 5/10

Had his hands full all afternoon in trying to keep track of Carlos Edwards

PAUL BUTLER 5/10

Was pulled all over the place by the mazy runs of Rowan Vine and Warren Feeney

IAN WESTLAKE 6/10

Showed tenacity and was booked for a late tackle on Feeney in the first half

SHAUN DERRY 5/10

Competed well early on, but found the going too tough as the game went on

JONATHON DOUGLAS 5/10

Had little impact on the right of midfield and clashed with Blake in the first half

ADAM JOHNSON 7/10

Leeds' most lively attacking outlet He tried to run at the defence whenever he could

RICHARD CRESSWELL 4/10

Competed for balls in the air throughout, but didn't see much go his way

ROBBIE BLAKE 4/10

Toiled away to little effect and was substituted just after the hour mark

SUBSTITUTES

HEALY - 5/10; FOR BLAKE (63)
LEWIS; FOR WESTLAKE (71)
MOORE; FOR CRESSWELL (72)
NOT USED: WARNER; RICHARDSON