



LUTON TOWN..0 BLACKBURN..4

Derbyshire 10, 56, McCarthy 37, Pedersen 74



MATT HURT FINISHES HATTERS

Rovers give Newell the birthday blues

By BRIAN HOWARD

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LUTON TOWN boss Mike Newell admitted his small, injury-ravaged squad never looked like causing an FA Cup shock against impressive Blackburn Rovers at Kenilworth Road.

A double from Matt Derbyshire, a tap-in for Benni McCarthy and a strike from Morten Gamst Pedersen saw Rovers ease home.

Former Blackburn star Newell said: "I'm disappointed. Their quality shone through and, with the injuries we've had and the players we've sold, the result wasn't a massive shock."

"It's not just the player sales. We've got a small squad and, with the injuries we've got, we've lost half a side."

"They've got quality players and they've had some good results away from home."

The result - in front of a worryingly small crowd of just 5,887 - made for an unhappy 42nd birthday for Newell.

Luton started well enough and enjoyed their fair share of possession against their Premiership opponents before Rovers registered the first shot on target in the tenth minute.

Marlon Beresford was forced to hold on to Pedersen's 25-yard free-kick after Chris Coyne had flattened debutant Stephen Warnock.

Seconds later Mark Hughes' men showed the mark of top-flight class as they took the lead in stylish fashion.

Coyne was caught out of position as Derbyshire raced on to a ball from Aaron Mokoena, and the youngster gave Beresford no chance with a thunderous angled, right-foot drive into the far corner from 20 yards.

From a Luton corner in the 37th minute, Blackburn swiftly turned defence into attack as they clinically broke to double their lead.

After claiming the cross, Brad Friedel threw the ball to Warnock marauding down the left and the former Liverpool man found Pedersen, who centred for Derbyshire to bravely beat Lewis Emanuel to the ball to head back across goal for McCarthy to tap home his 15th goal of the season.

In the 56th minute Derbyshire found the net again. Keith Keane fouled McCarthy on the Rovers left and Pedersen switched play with a crossfield pass to Brett Emerton, who had all the time in the world to cross from the right for Derbyshire to nod in from eight yards.

Rovers always looked likely to get another and Dean Morgan denied Pedersen with a well-timed tackle in the 73rd minute as the Norwegian threatened to break through.

ICING ON THE CAKE: Morten Gamst Pedersen scores Rovers' fourth



ON THEIR WAY: Matt Derbyshire celebrates netting Blackburn's opener

PICTURES: Action Images

LUTON

MARLON BERESFORD 5/10
Returned from injury, didn't look at his best, his kicking was erratic

CHRIS COYNE 4/10
Looked woefully off the pace before limping off injured early on

SOL DAVIS 5/10
Allowed Brett Emerton too much space at times, put in a great 54th minute tackle

KEVIN FOLEY 5/10
Given the runaround by Pedersen on a difficult afternoon

LEWIS EMANUEL 4/10
Struggled to get involved, touch often poor, frequently out of position

RUSSELL PERRETT 6/10
Won his fair share of headers and tackles, read the game well at the back

RICHARD LANGLEY 7/10
Luton's best player on the day. Composed on the ball, not afraid to get stuck in

DAVID BELL 5/10
Frustrating afternoon, everything he tried didn't seem to come off

STEVE ROBINSON 6/10
Gamely battled away in the middle of the park

DREW TALBOT 5/10
Plenty of energy, lost the ball too often, never really posed any problems

ADAM BOYD 4/10
Almost non-existent, although he did get a shot on goal in the 64th minute

SUBSTITUTES

KEANE - 5/10; FOR COYNE (21)
MORGAN - 5/10; FOR BELL (58)
O'LEARY; FOR TALBOT (82)
NOT USED: BRILL; SPRING

STAR PLAYERS

RICHARD LANGLEY

MORTEN G PEDERSEN



STAR RATING

7



STAR RATING

8

BLACKBURN

BRAD FRIEDEL 6/10
Generally relaxing afternoon for the keeper, good distribution

STEPHEN WARNOCK 7/10
Flying debut, looked solid at the back, made plenty of dangerous runs forward

AARON MOKOENA 6/10
Did the dirty work and broke up anything Luton tried to do in the middle

ZURAB KHIZANISHVILI 6/10
Didn't really have his work cut out, comfortably strolled through the game

RYAN NELSEN 6/10
Battled well despite receiving a nasty looking head wound early on

STEPHANE HENCHOZ 7/10
Read the game well and never looked in danger all the match

MORTEN GAMST PEDERSEN 8/10
A step above the others on the field, quality delivery of the ball and a superb goal

BRETT EMERTON 7/10
Found plenty of space on the right, caused havoc without even being at his best

DAVID BENTLEY 6/10
Reasonably quiet afternoon for him, playing out of position in central midfield

MATT DERBYSHIRE 7/10
Caused problems throughout, unlucky not to complete his hat-trick

BENNI MCCARTHY 7/10
Not even in top gear, but always looked likely to score

SUBSTITUTES

JEFFERS - 6/10; FOR MCCARTHY (67)
SAMBA - 6/10; FOR NELSEN (70)
GALLAGHER; FOR KHIZANISHVILI (76)
NOT USED: ENCKELMAN; NONDA