



LUTON..2 WOLVES..3

Emanuel 22, Barnett 45

Breen 10, Keogh 53, Henry 66



BERESFORD IN BLUNDERLAND

Keeper danger hands Wolves crucial victory

By BRIAN HOWARD

WOLVES boss Mick McCarthy had some sympathy for Luton goalkeeper Marlon Beresford as the veteran's astonishing gaffe gifted his side the three points in a ding-dong battle at Kenilworth Road.

"That end obviously wasn't good for goalkeepers as we were very fortunate with the winner," he said.

"But you have to play to the conditions and it was always going to be scrappy given the surface."

Beresford, who had moments earlier made a stunning save from Michael McIndoe to keep the score at 2-2, allowed Karl Henry's long-range effort to squirm under his body in the 66th minute to leave Luton deep in relegation trouble.

Town had led 2-1 at half-time after Leon Barnett's header and Lewis Emanuel's 30-yard thunderbolt had cancelled out Gary Breen's opener for the visitors.

But things went wrong after the break as Andy Keogh hauled Wanderers level before Henry embarrassed Beresford with his hopeful strike from distance.

It made it five wins on the spin for the Molineux men, while for Town it means they have just one win in their last 12 league games.

McCarthy's men almost took the lead in the fourth minute when Seyi Olofinjana unleashed a 20-yard thunderbolt after Michael McIndoe had laid off Rob Edwards' right-wing cross, only for the ball to cannon away off the top of the post.

Six minutes later the opener duly arrived as Luton's vulnerability at set-pieces was exposed yet again.

Keith Keane gave away a free-kick 40 yards out near the touchline after a foul on McIndoe and Keightly whipped the ball in for Breen to get the faintest of touches to nod into the far corner of the net.

The Hatters looked ragged and short of confidence, but they hit back to equalise quite literally with a bolt from the blue.

Kevin Foley rolled the ball across the midfield from wide on the right and Emanuel, pushing up from left-back, let fly with a searing 30-yard strike that flew into the bottom right-hand corner off a Wolves defender for a stunning equaliser.

That woke Town from their slumber and, despite the atrocious Kenilworth Road pitch, Luton played their way back into the match, forcing a number of corners.

It was from their final flag kick of the half in the 45th minute that Barnett rose to power home a ten-yard header from David Bell's centre to give Luton the lead at the break.

Town couldn't build on the

MATCH STATS

LUTON v WOLVES

3	Shots on target	7
1	Shots off target	5
5	Corners	5
2	Offside	5
11	Fouls conceded	10
4	Yellow Cards	1
0	Red Cards	0
48	Possession %	52

Att: 10,002 Rating: ★★★★★
Ref: P Taylor - 7/10

advantage after the interval though as Wolves came back into the match and Keightly's right-wing cross in the 52nd minute caused confusion in the home defence resulting in Matthew Spring nicking the ball of Ward's toes in front of goal.

A minute later Wolves were level when Neill Collins found Keightly free in the penalty area and, although his 12-yard shot was superbly blocked by Beresford, Keogh was first to the rebound to net from two yards out.

Beresford denied Keightly in the 61st minute after the Wolves player had jinked past Emanuel and Steve Robinson and fired in a rising left-foot shot from just inside the area.

Beresford's good work was all undone in a horrifying moment five minutes later though as Henry, who along with Olofinjana had bossed the midfield all afternoon, side-stepped Spring and hit a low 30-yarder that somehow eluded Beresford and trickled into the net.

The best Luton could muster after that was a speculative 25-yard effort from Keane in the 80th minute as Wolves comfortably saw out the game.

Luton boss Mike Newell said: "How disappointed can you be after a game? That's how disappointed I am. We weren't in control, but we were in front."



SANDWICH: Wolves' Michael Keightly comes between Luton's Lewis Emanuel and Steve Robinson



CHALLENGE: Wolverhampton's Karl Henry battles with Luton's Kevin Foley

PICTURES: Action Images

LUTON

MARLON BERESFORD 4/10

Two great blocks from Keightly, undone by an awful error for Henry's goal

LEON BARNETT 6/10

Great leap to put Luton 2-1 up, competed well in the centre of defence

KEVIN FOLEY 4/10

Failed to get involved, struggled to put in any service from the right

MARKUS HEIKKINEN 6/10

Not one of his better showings for the Hatters, but still a solid display

LEWIS EMANUEL 7/10

Powerful display, great shot for the first goal, continually got forwards

KEITH KEANE 6/10

Stuck to his task well against Michael McIndoe, won his fair share of headers

STEVE ROBINSON 6/10

Full of usual industry, managed to put in a few deep runs behind the defence

DAVID BELL 7/10

Luton's liveliest player, full of tricks and pace on the left flank

MATTHEW SPRING 4/10

Lost possession time and again, couldn't win any tackles Substituted

BJORN RUNSTROM 4/10

Struggled to have any influence, a second half header was his best contribution

DREW TALBOT 5/10

Some nice touches on occasions, but tired towards the end and was replaced

SUBSTITUTES

CARLISLE; FOR SPRING (71)
FEENEY; FOR TALBOT (71)
NOT USED: BRILL; DAVIS; BOYD

STAR PLAYERS

DAVID BELL

SEYI OLOFINJANA



STAR RATING

7

STAR RATING

9

WOLVES

MATT MURRAY 6/10

Decent handling throughout, no real chance with either goal

GARY BREEN 6/10

Composed showing at the centre of defence showing all his experience

ROB EDWARDS 6/10

Had his work cut out dealing with David Bell, battled gamely

NEILL COLLINS 6/10

Rarely troubled at the back, had a hand in his side's equaliser

JACKIE MCNAMARA 6/10

Comfortable afternoon's work, easily dealt with opponent Kevin Foley

MICHAEL MCINDOE 6/10

Not quite as involved as he would have liked, still did his bit for the team

MICHAEL KEIGHTLY 7/10

Pace and skill on the right flank, a constant danger to the Luton defence

SEYI GEORGE OLOFINJANA 9/10

Powerhouse, won all the tackles and headers that came his way

KARL HENRY 8/10

Superb showing, his deft touches always gave him time and space

STEPHEN WARD 6/10

Stretched off late on, showed some good link up play

ANDY KEOGH 6/10

Grabbed his first goal for Wolves since his January move from Scunthorpe

SUBSTITUTES

BOTHROYD; FOR WARD (77)
NOT USED: BUDTZ; CLAPHAM; CRADDOCK; GLEESON