

Luton Spring surprise

07/08
(FLC)

By Amar Azam

LUTON TOWN 3

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1

After extra time. Score at 90 mins 1-1

ALAN PARDEW'S second-string Charlton Athletic side were dumped out of the League Cup after Luton Town came back from a goal down to take the game into extra time and ultimately seal the win.

A header from the Luton midfielder Matthew Spring, at the end of the first period of extra time, and a goal from Drew Talbot saw the side who beat Sunderland in the last round record another win over opposition from a lower division.

Despite 10 changes to the starting line-up who defeated

Leicester City at the weekend, Alan Pardew's side took the lead three minutes into the game. Striker Izale McLeod charged down the right wing before delivering a cross into the penalty area that severely troubled the Luton defence. Sinclair bundled the ball into the goal from close range after Bulgarian striker Svetoslav Todorov's effort was saved by Dean Brill.

Midfielder Therry Racon nearly put the south London side further ahead on 25 minutes, but his fine shot from distance crashed against crossbar.

Charlton were at that stage easily in control of the game and despite spirited Luton efforts to impose themselves on the play, it seemed the

Championship visitors were in an unassailable position of dominance. However, Robinson, restored parity three minutes from the break after Charlton had failed to clear David Bell's corner.

In extra time, substitute Darren Currie provided the cross for Spring, who rose above his marker, to secure Luton's progress into the next round.

Talbot put the result beyond doubt after he seized on a defensive mistake to slot under Randolph on 118 minutes.

Luton (4-4-2): Brill; Jackson, Perry, Fojut, Goodall; Bell (Brkovic 103), Spring, Robinson, Morgan (Currie 85); Furlong, McVeigh (Talbot 91).

Charlton (4-4-2): Randolph; Moutaouakil, McCarthy, Bougherra, Sankofa; Racon (Varney 69), Holland, Sinclair, Ambrose (Fortune 116; McLeod, Todorov (Arter, 86mins).

Referee: A D'Urso (Essex).