

Blackwell boss fumes at inept defeat and issues instant punishment with Sunday training

Town still suffering the away day blues

LUTON TOWN FC

LEAGUE ONE
HUDDERSFIELD 2
Beckett 30, Cadamarteri 60
LUTON 0

07/08

TOM LEECH
at The Galpharm Stadium
tom.leech@lsnmedia.co.uk

LUTON TOWN'S underperforming players had their day off cancelled by manager Kevin Blackwell after slumping to their fourth away defeat in a row.

"We got what we deserved – nothing," admitted Blackwell whose team looked unrecognisable compared to the side that beat Championship Charlton 3-1 in a Carling Cup thriller on Tuesday night.

Huddersfield went ahead through Luke Beckett in a dull first half before veteran Paul Furlong, who celebrates his 39th birthday on Monday, got an early red card from referee Dean Whitestone at the restart, reducing Hatters to ten men.

Danny Cadamarteri made sure of the win with the Terriers' second on the hour mark, but the Luton boss refused to entertain the idea that his side's extra-time exertions in midweek had taken their toll.

"I'm not prepared to accept that," he said. "We've looked after them between that game and now. Ironically we played better when we went down to ten men.

"We had too many players off song. So I'll see them in the morning. If they're not going to be doing the job on a Saturday they'll be in on a Sunday.

"I've said to the lads 'why do you keep building mountains for yourselves?' I felt Huddersfield were ready to be beat today.

"Certain people need to realise there's a new era at Luton Town. We keep losing away from home so clearly I've got to do something about it. The players realise it's not good enough. We can take teams apart but we're not doing that."

On referee Whitestone, who issued Furlong with the second of his two yellow cards when he appeared to jump leading with his elbow, Blackwell remarked: "If you're prepared to pay my fines, I'll talk about the referee.

"Huddersfield deserved to win today but the performance of the referee needs to be seriously looked at."

Due to Huddersfield's rugby league defeat in midweek the decision to move the game to a noon kick-off, to accommodate a play off match in the same day, became pointless – a bit like Luton's away form this season. The Huddersfield teams share the Galpharm Stadium and in the town rugby league is king. Even the pitch looked more suitable for rugby than football, cutting up and playing its



STRUGGLING AWAY FORM: Main picture, Jaroslaw Fojut battling in the air, inset David Bell tussles for the ball

part in an uneventful opening.

Four minutes in, Furlong headed into Paul McVeigh's path but the Ulsterman flashed his shot wide.

Nothing of any note happened until the 19th minute when, from a quick goalkick, Dean Morgan got the ball full in the face from Huddersfield keeper Matt Glennon knocking him to the floor.

As the game progressed it seemed the teams were as equal on the pitch as they were off it. The sides were both on nine points at the start of the day, in mid-table well behind the division's pace-setters.

Equal, that is, until the 36th minute when Huddersfield took the lead with a scrambled goal. A cross into the box wasn't dealt with and Ben Alnwick was called into action to block at the feet of Cadamarteri. The rebound fell kindly for Beckett inside the area who, with the keeper out of position, prodded into an empty net from ten yards.

Hatters ran out for the second half with two changes – Darren Currie

came on for Morgan and midweek cup scorer Drew Talbot replaced McVeigh.

Talbot was forced to play a lone role up front almost immediately as Furlong saw red for his challenge on Richard Keogh.

Furlong had been cautioned by the ref in the first half for backing in and it was clear the striker's forceful jumps would be under scrutiny. When he went up for a 50/50 with Keogh and the Terriers' centre half fell in a crumpled heap, it was inevitable Furlong would get his marching orders.

Huddersfield took advantage straight away, making sure Alnwick would have a busy debut after signing on a three-month loan from Tottenham on Thursday. They doubled the score an hour in.

On-loan Bolton defender Jaroslaw Fojut committed himself forward but lost the ball and the Terriers attacked with stealth exploiting the gap in defence.

Chris Brandon played in roving

right back Andy Holdsworth who slipped the ball through for Cadamarteri. The ex-Everton forward kept his cool, rounding Alnwick and side footing his shot in.

With nothing to lose Luton responded by throwing on striker Calvin Andrew for full-back Richard Jackson and gambled with three at the back.

It didn't work as Huddersfield went looking for a third, increasing the pressure on Fojut, Alan Goodall and stand-in skipper Chris Perry.

Shots were flying in at Alnwick's goal from all angles while at the other end only a David Bell chip that flew inches over Glennon's crossbar bore any resemblance to a shot on target.

Afterwards Terriers' boss Andy Ritchie described his side's performance as 'a great result against a team I fully expect to be up there at the end of the season'.

But with away form like this it's difficult for Luton fans to share Ritchie's view.

stats corner

MAN OF THE MATCH

Chris Perry

Busy defender was the best of the bunch



THE SQUAD

Alnwick; Jackson (Andrew '69'), Fojut, Perry, Goodall; Bell, Spring, Robinson, Morgan (Currie '46'); Furlong, McVeigh (Talbot '46'). Subs: Coyne, Edwards.

MATCH FACTS

CORNERS

HUDDERSFIELD 3 LUTON 3

OFFSIDE

HUDDERSFIELD 2 LUTON 1

SHOTS ON TARGET

HUDDERSFIELD 9 LUTON 0

SHOTS OFF TARGET

HUDDERSFIELD 5 LUTON 5

BOOKINGS

HUDDERSFIELD 3 Clarke 27,

Holdsworth 54, Keogh 90

LUTON 3 Bell 26. Furlong (red) 47,

Andrew 90.

ATTENDANCE

9,028

REFEREE

DEAN WHITESTONE, NORTHAMPTON

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

Bournemouth	1	Carlisle	3
Bristol Rovers	2	Leyton O	3
Doncaster	2	Chelt'ham	0
Gillingham	1	Leeds	1
Hartlepool	0	Walsall	1
Huddersfield	2	Luton	0
Millwall	1	Swindon	2
Oldham	3	Crewe	2
Port Vale	1	Southend	2
Swansea	0	Brighton	0
Tranmere	2	North'ton	2
Yeovil	0	Nottm F	3

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leyton O	8	6	1	1	14	9	19
Tranmere	8	4	3	1	12	7	15
Southend	8	5	0	3	14	12	15
Carlisle	8	4	2	2	10	6	14
Hartlepool	8	4	1	3	14	10	13
Swindon	8	3	4	1	12	8	13
Yeovil	8	4	1	3	7	8	13
Notts Forest	7	3	3	1	12	4	12
Huddersf'd	8	4	0	4	8	11	12
Swansea	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Northampton	8	2	4	2	13	10	10
Brighton	8	3	1	4	10	10	10
Doncaster	8	3	1	4	10	10	10
Bristol Rvrs	8	2	4	2	10	12	10
Oldham	7	3	0	4	9	10	9
Luton	8	3	0	5	10	12	9
Crewe	8	2	3	3	8	10	9
Cheltenham	8	2	2	4	7	10	8
Walsall	8	2	2	4	6	11	8
Leeds	8	7	1	0	17	4	7
Gillingham	8	2	1	5	5	15	7
Millwall	8	1	2	5	4	10	5
Port Vale	8	1	2	5	4	10	5
B'mouth	8	1	2	5	5	12	5