

Point taken

YEovil 0 HATTERS 0

Carl Field reports
from Huish Park

HATTERS are still without a away win this season but at least they came home from Somerset with a point after weathering a second half storm.

Boss Kevin Blackwell threatened to make changes after Saturday's dismal 2-0 defeat at Huddersfield, and he posted three alterations to the starting line-up at Yeovil last night.

But despite a promising first half which should have produced goals, his side are still saddled with that woeful away record after the Somerset team rallied after the break and put the Hatters under the cosh.

Calvin Andrew replaced suspended Paul Furlong, sent off for using his elbows at the weekend, up front, while Dave Edwards and Chris Coyne, both unused subs in Yorkshire, returned after injury in place of Richard Jackson and Paul McVeigh.

There was also a starting place in the first league encounter between these two sides for Darren Currie at the expense of Dean Morgan, who was dropped from the squad altogether.

On a skiddy, rain-soaked pitch Hatters came agonisingly close to taking an early lead in the fourth minute when Andrew raced in behind right back Lee Peltier, beating the offside trap and sending in a low left-foot cross that flew across the face of the goal with nobody there to apply the killer touch.

A minute later, it was the home side's turn to attack as Anthony Barry raced dangerously towards the Luton box.

His cross just evaded front man

LUTON TOWN



Unused subs: Hutchison, Jackson, Brkovic, Talbot, McVeigh

YEovil



Unused subs: Lynch, Jones, Knights, Alcock, Domoraud

Referee: Richard Beeby (Northants) Att: 4,848 (376 Luton)

STAR HATTER: Ben Alnwick – vital second half saves earned Hatters a first away point

Lloyd Owusu with the ball finally hacked clear by Steve Robinson.

Both sides had plenty of first half possession without either team taking control.

Alan Goodall did well to get in a last ditch tackle off Owusu's toe on the edge of the box with 20 minutes gone, then five minutes later Bell came within an inch of breaking the deadlock as he took the ball down out wide on the right, eased past Nathan Jones and sent a low left-footed drive just wide of Raymond Larrieu's left-



Picture by Gareth Owen

MY BALL: David Bell and Yeovil's Nathan Jones battle for the ball

hand post.

That proved to be Bell's last contribution as he was replaced at half-time by Drew Talbot.

Luton began the second half in similar attacking fashion and were some-

how denied an opener on 49 minutes when Jaroslav Fojut's downward header from Darren Currie's corner was desperately cleared off the line.

Both sides had gilt-edged chances to score and Owusu twice gave Hat-

ters fans a fright.

First, Peltier's cross found the former Brentford man in oceans of space inside the area.

But his attempted bicycle kick lacked conviction and didn't trouble Ben Alnwick.

Then, on 55 minutes, Nathan Jones' cross from the left found the head of the unmarked striker who headed wide, and really should have scored.

The West Country side began to press for a win and, roared on by the rapturous home support, had three further chances to break the deadlock.

On 65 minutes Alnwick had to make a spectacular diving save to his left to keep out Barry's thumping right foot shot.

Then Warne flashed a left-foot effort wide across the keeper's goal.

Town then had Coyne to thank after he brilliantly denied Owusu when the Yeovil striker latched on to a Warne cross.

Eyebrows may have been raised among Luton fans when keeper Dean Brill was summarily dropped on Saturday in favour of new arrival, but they can have no complaints about the on-loan Tottenham stopper after this performance.

He saved his side's blushes after 77 minutes, keeping out Peltier's rasping effort that looked destined for the bottom corner.

On the basis of their second half performance, Luton barely deserved a point – but they almost snatched a goal with seven minutes remaining.

The chance came against the run of play, but Dave Edwards probably went home wondering how he blazed his effort high and wide when it seemed easier to score after the ball had ricocheted into his path from Currie's right wing free kick.