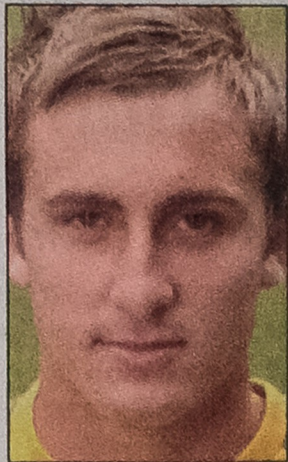


MAN OF THE MATCH



DEAN
BRILL

Kept the score respectable with a string of superb saves

THE SQUAD

Luton: Brill; Asafu-Adjaye, Keane, Hutchison, Davis (Andrew 73); Currie, Spring, O'Leary, Emanuel; Parkin, McVeigh (Robinson 46). Subs: Beresford, Jackson, Langley

MATCH FACTS

SHOTS ON TARGET
DONCASTER 12 LUTON 3

SHOTS OFF TARGET
DONCASTER 8 LUTON 3

CORNERS
DONCASTER 6 LUTON 3

OFFSIDE
DONCASTER 1 LUTON 2

BOOKINGS
DONCASTER

LUTON
Spring 28

REFEREE
COLIN WEBSTER (TYNE AND WEAR)

ATTENDANCE
9,332

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

Friday						
Yeovil	0	Leeds	1			
Yesterday						
Bournemouth	1	Crewe	0			
Bristol Rovers	0	Brighton	2			
Doncaster	2	Luton	0			
Gillingham	1	Swindon	1			
Hartlepool	0	Nottm Forest	1			
Huddersfield	2	Walsall	0			
Millwall	3	Carlisle	0			
Oldham	2	Cheltenham	1			
Port Vale	2	Northampton	2			
Swansea	4	Leyton Orient	1			
Tranmere	1	Southend	0			

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	45	26	11	8	81	42	89
D'caster	45	23	11	11	64	39	80
Nott'm Forest	45	21	16	8	61	30	79
Carlisle	45	23	10	12	63	45	79
Southend	45	22	9	14	69	54	75
Leeds	45	26	10	9	70	37	73
Brighton	45	19	12	14	58	49	69
Tranmere	45	18	11	16	51	45	65
Oldham	45	17	13	15	54	45	64
Walsall	45	16	15	14	50	44	63
North'ton	45	16	15	14	58	54	63
Huddersf'd	45	19	6	20	49	62	63
Swindon	45	15	13	17	61	55	58
Leyton O	45	15	12	18	46	62	57
Hartlepool	45	15	8	22	61	64	53
Bristol Rvrs	45	12	17	16	44	50	53
Millwall	45	14	10	21	44	58	52
Yeovil	45	14	10	21	36	56	52
Crewe	45	12	14	19	46	61	50
Cheltenham	45	12	12	21	40	63	48
B'mouth	45	17	6	22	61	71	47
G'llingham	45	11	13	21	43	71	46
Port Vale	45	9	10	26	46	80	37
Luton	45	11	10	24	43	62	33

Woeful Hatters fail to stop Donny party

LUTON TOWN FC

LEAGUE ONE 09/08

DONCASTER ROVERS 2

Mills 34, McCammon 81

LUTON TOWN 0

TOM LEECH
at Keepmoat Stadium

sport@lsnmedia.co.uk



IF last week at Nottingham Forest you couldn't tell the difference between a side chasing promotion and one already relegated, yesterday you painfully could.

Hatters were simply awful on their first visit to Rovers' new Keepmoat Stadium as goals from Matt Mills and Mark McCammon left Doncaster only one win away from the Championship.

For the sorry Hatters the final standings for their away campaign say it all – lost 17, drawn five and won only once.

At times it was like a training match for Doncaster as only one man stood in the way of Rovers racking up a cricket score – Luton keeper Dean Brill who played out of his skin in a vain attempt to keep them at bay.

The home side took control from the off and forced two good saves from Brill in quick succession. Both came from corners and both chances fell to centre half Mills.

The first save was an instinctive block at the near post from Mills' snap shot and the second was even better.

From a crowded penalty area Mills rose above the pack and powered a header goalwards that Brill acrobatically palmed inches over the cross-bar.

It was becoming target practice for Donny as moments later James Coppinger's neat turn gave him room to curl a shot that Brill had to punch to safety.

The save of the game came on 21 minutes when a ball over the top caught Luton's slow defence cold. Gareth Taylor found himself one-on-one with the goal gaping but Brill made himself big and somehow got enough of a hand to the striker's strong shot to divert it around the post.

The only time Brill was at fault he finally got some help from his team-



BATTLE FOR THE BALL: Hatters winger Paul McVeigh holds off Matt Mills

mates. A long cross into the box should have been caught by the Luton shot-stopper but he misjudged the flight of the ball and Lewis Emanuel had to head off the line only for the ball to fall to Adrian Hird.

The centre half showed a defender's finish as with the goal wide open he volleyed the ball directly at a startled Don Hutchison.

Doncaster would not be denied a first half goal however cruel it was on the hard-working Brill.

McCammon's header from a corner was saved low down by the Hatters' goalkeeper but it spilled out at the feet of the lurking Mills. Stranded on the floor not even Brill could prevent the centre half from the easiest of

tap-ins to give Rovers the lead their attractive football deserved.

It took 38 minutes for the Hatters to register their first attempt on goal although when it came it almost produced an equaliser. Sam Parkin's cross beat Donny's veteran keeper Neil Sullivan to reach Darren Currie at the far post.

The winger chose to head the ball downwards and it bounced just over.

With an hour gone Doncaster looked odds on to double their lead but yet again Brill came to Luton's rescue. A long throw was allowed to drop in the area which looped over the Hatters defence and sat up perfectly for McCammon.

The big striker's point-blank header was stopped by Brill's spectacular

leap and one arm block that kept the Rovers fans, buoyed up by news of Millwall beating rivals for second spot Carlisle, from celebrating promotion just yet.

In fact some of the Donny fans' hearts must have been in their mouths on 77 minutes when against the run of play Matt Spring's well struck shot from just inside the box produced a save from Sullivan.

That scare aside the party was allowed to start on 81 minutes when McCammon scored Doncaster's second. From a flighted free kick McCammon, whose height dwarfed the vertically-challenged Hatters defence, jumped with his back to goal and his backward header flew past Brill who was rooted to the spot.

Post match reaction... post match reaction...post match...

MICK HARFORD was the first to congratulate Doncaster Rovers as they stand on the brink of the Championship but admitted his envy at the Yorkshire club's progress on and off the pitch in recent years.

Rovers moved from their dilapidated Belle Vue ground last season into the state-of-the-art Keepmoat Stadium on the edge of town after a spell in the Conference and Harford said: "It

makes you jealous. We'll get there one day though," he said. "Doncaster have shown it can be done and how much you can move your club forward with a new stadium and the right backing.

"Fair play to Doncaster – they played some great football and I'm sure if they make it to the Championship they'll give a good account of themselves."

Harford reiterated his desire to

rule a line under this disastrous season after defeat to Doncaster made it five straight losses.

"It was Dean Brill's performance in the first half that stopped it being a landslide. He is destined for the top.

"We were very poor in the first half and slow out of the blocks. There were stern words at half time and in the second half we created a few chances and got back into it.

"Our defending was poor, our positioning was poor. We got better in the second half but the equaliser didn't come and we conceded a sloppy goal from a set piece – the story of our season.

"It's nearly the end of the season – we need to get next weekend out of the way and build a new Luton Town.

"It's been a tough year but we'll come back stronger and a bigger club."