

Accrington agony piles on the pain

Luton Town 1
Accrington Stanley 2

NEW signing Wayne Andrews hopes the Hatters faithful can forget his past Watford connections despite missing a gilt-edged opportunity to earn the Hatters a point on Saturday, writes Mark Wood.

Stanley starved Luton of possession throughout and richly deserved their 2-1 victory, despite Asa Hall's stylish first-half volley to level the scores.

After the game, 30-year-old Andrews said: "Everyone knows the link that I used to play for Watford.

"It's local and you take everything into account. It's just easier at this point in my career.

"It's about 12 years since I played for Watford so I like to think it's done.

"At the end of the day it's a job and I've got to play football.

"It's just good to be back playing football."

On his chance to level the scores late in the second half, he said: "I was disappointed. It came quite quick and to be honest I thought I had scored - the defender was quite close.

"I look back and I really should have scored the goal, to be honest. You can't dwell on it, I have to move on.

"The boys just said to me that today was an off day and that they had been playing well and not getting results."

And he admitted he would have preferred not to have to come on so early after Gareth O'Connor was forced off through injury early in the first half.

He said: "I came on a bit early and it was a bit different with injuries. I can play wide right but I prefer to play up front. It was just one of those games because I don't know individuals' games.

"It's easier for them to know one person's than for me to know 10."

And Andrews believes if the Hatters can get away from the minus



GETTING TO KNOW YOU: New boy Wayne Andrews in action on Saturday

points stigma and get a fully fit squad together then they might still be OK.

He said: "You think you have to win going into games like that and it's not always so good.

"If we can get out of negative points I think everything else will fall into place.

"I was at Leeds when they had minus 15 points and they were just beating everyone. I went there for a month and it was the best month I ever had.

"The injuries are the things that are killing us at the moment. Kids have had to go out and do a job. They came in and did all right."

Town struggled throughout this game and their desperate injury situation meant that manager Mick Harford even included 16-year-old school-boy striker Jordan Patrick on the

bench for the first time.

Tom Craddock, signed on loan from Premiership Middlesbrough during the week, almost made an immediate impact on three minutes when he appeared to be obstructed in the area but nothing was given.

The ball then ran to Chris Martin but his effort was deflected over the bar.

Martin just failed to get on to a poor back header on seven minutes, but it came as no surprise when Accrington took the lead on 16 minutes.

Harry Worley's poor defensive header went straight to James Ryan and his low cross from the right was turned home from just a few yards out by the impressive Paul Mullin.

Town finally found a bit of urgency and could have equalised on 19 minutes.

Keith Keane's free-kick was headed back across goal by Worley but, stretching for it, Martin could only head over the bar.

Craddock fired into the side netting after a big kick from Conrad Logan had sent him clear on the half hour, while Hall levelled in spectacular fashion four minutes later.

Jake Howells put in a telling cross from the left and Hall met it with a looping volley that spun over Kenny Arthur.

Stanley responded with several dangerous crosses, while Hall sent a sidefooted volley just over on 38 minutes. Craddock then had a goal chalked out for offside as the teams went in all square.

Luton made their customary slack start to the second half and, after Andrews had briefly threatened and Hall flashed an effort wide, the Minnows edged into the lead again on 54 minutes.

Paul Mullin was allowed to head a free kick back across goal and Gornell was on hand at the far post to power home from close range.

Town struggled to threaten against well-drilled Stanley, although Craddock had a shot deflected wide on 58 minutes and Spillane headed over the subsequent corner.

Paul Mullin should have made it 3-1 on 61 minutes, but his free header looped just over the bar.

Martin's tumble in the area went unrewarded on 76 minutes, while the Hatters should have equalised with just six minutes left.

Craddock twisted and turned in the box and, although Arthur got a hand to his shot, the ball rebounded to Andrews who could only stab wide from three yards out.

Luton piled on the pressure in the closing stages and Arthur produced a great one-footed save to deny Hall with a minute left.

Craddock couldn't capitalise on the loose ball and then fired a late free-kick woefully over as Town limped to another demoralising defeat.

WHAT MICK MADE OF IT



BROWBEATEN manager Mick Harford admitted he is asking boys to do the job of men after seeing the Hatters falter to a 2-1 home defeat against Accrington Stanley.

He said: "It's hugely disappointing. I thought we didn't start particularly well and they deserved to go 1-0 up. We looked sloppy and sluggish.

"We never passed the ball well this afternoon. We could have ground something out but we didn't."

"It's a bit of a low. Coming down to League Two, we should be beating this sort of team."

"At the moment we're asking boys to do men's jobs and some of them are finding it difficult."

And he bemoaned the late Wayne Andrews miss that could have grabbed the Hatters a point.

He said: "It was one of the few opportunities we created. We weren't good in the final third today."

"When we don't play well we need to grind results out, which we aren't doing at the moment."

Harford also revealed that Gareth O'Connor was carrying a thigh injury, while he was pleased with Middlesbrough loan striker Tom Craddock's debut and Ian Roper's comeback.

He said: "Gareth O'Connor wanted to go out there and give it a go, but he didn't last very long."

"If Tom plays we need good possession because he will make those runs."

"Ropes is Ropes. Ropes is not great on the eye, but he is solid and dependable, boots things and keeps things organised."

All over by Christmas? The 2008/09 season so far...

AUG	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 9	PORT VALE	1-3	Parkin 35	7,149	24
Tue 12	PLYMOUTH (LGCP)	2-0	Jarvis 15, Plummer 77	2,682	-
Sat 16	Gillingham	1-0	Parkin 3	5,339	24
Sat 23	NOTTS COUNTY	1-1	Martin 49	6,085	24
Tue 26	Reading (LGCP)	1-5	Charles 81	7,498	-
Sat 30	Exeter City	1-0	Parkin 47	5,328	24
SEP					
Sat 6	Macclesfield	1-2	Charles 90	2,349	24
Sat 13	ALDERSHOT TN	3-1	Spillane 17, Hall 89, Martin 90	6,462	24
Sat 20	Rotherham	0-1		4,095	24
Sat 27	CHESTER CITY	1-1	Hall 41	5,731	24
OCT					
Sat 4	Bradford City	1-1	Spillane 86	13,083	24
Tue 7	BRENTFORD (JP 2)	2-2	Martin 39, 55 (won 4-3 on pens)	2,029	-
Sat 11	DARLINGTON	1-2	Gnaka 31	5,560	24
Sat 18	ACCRINGTON	1-2	Hall 34	5,492	24
Tue 21	Grimsby Town	2-2	Craddock 24, 90	4,021	24
Sat 25	Bury				
Tue 28	BOURNEMOUTH				
NOV					
Tue 4	Walsall (JP 3)				
Sat 1	Shrewsbury				
Sat 15	DAGENHAM & RED				
Sat 22	Rochdale				
Tue 25	BRENTFORD				
DEC					
Sat 6	BARNET				
Sat 13	Wycombe				
Sat 20	MORECAMBE				
Jan 26	Chesterfield				

DEC	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sun 28	LINCOLN CITY				
JAN					
Sat 3	Chester City				
Sat 10	ROTHERHAM				
Sat 17	Darlington				
Sat 24	BRADFORD CITY				
Tue 27	Bournemouth				
Sat 31	BURY				
FEB					
Tue 3	GRIMSBY TOWN				
Sat 7	Accrington				
Sat 14	Dagenham & Red				
Sat 21	SHREWSBURY				
Sat 28	Port Vale				
MAR					
Tue 3	GILLINGHAM				
Sat 7	EXETER CITY				
Tue 10	Notts County				
Sat 14	Aldershot Town				
Sat 21	MACCLESFIELD				
Sat 28	Morecambe				
APR					
Sat 4	WYCOMBE				
Sat 11	Lincoln City				
Mon 13	CHESTERFIELD				
Sat 18	Barnet				
Sat 25	ROCHDALE				
MAY					
Sat 2	Brentford				

Ankle break blow for sidelined Ed

HATTERS: Defender Ed Asafu-Adjaye, below, is likely to be out for around six weeks after it emerged he has suffered a fractured ankle.

On the latest injury to his already ravaged squad, manager Mick Harford said: "Fair play to Ed, he got a whack at Watford in the reserves but has carried on training and playing for the past couple of weeks through the pain. That just shows the attitude of the boy."

"There seems to be a lot of freak injuries happening here at the moment for whatever reason, we've analysed the training and everything and most of the injuries have been on contact. We've been very unfortunate."

