

Injury-struck Town needing to dig deep

Shrewsbury Town 3 Luton Town 0

HATTERS must dig deep and continue to pick up points despite their growing injury list insists midfielder Rossi Jarvis.

Town travelled to the Prostar Stadium on Saturday with just 16 players, two of which were YTS and a schoolboy, writes Mark Wood.

The Hatters were outclassed by their hosts who took an early lead before cementing victory with two goals late in the second half.

But the 20-year-old believes that the side should still be good enough to get results despite the absences of their most experienced stars.

He said: "We've got a good enough squad here to win games.

"We've proved that in the last two games. We've just got to roll our sleeves up and get on with it."

On the game, he said: "We didn't do too good. We had a bad start and that didn't help.

"We were 1-0 down after five minutes, then I don't think there was much between the two sides after the first 15 minutes.

"We gave away a second sloppy goal and it killed the momentum which was the end of us."

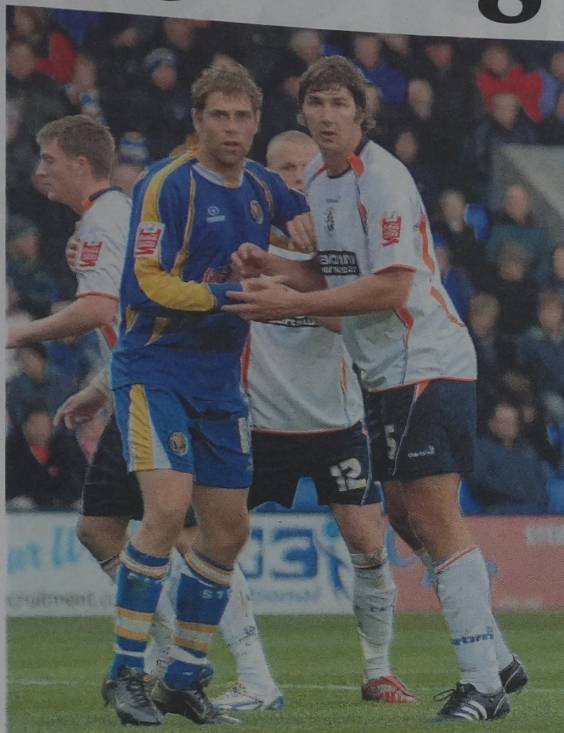
It was a case of square pegs in round holes for manager Mick Harford and his injury-ravaged squad as he was forced to pair Jarvis in central midfield with defender Michael Spillane.

Jarvis said: "Michael is not really used to playing in midfield and we are struggling with injuries.

"He did OK but obviously would prefer to play in his strongest position."

High-flying Shrewsbury dominated proceedings from start to finish against hot-chestpot Town, with Salops' record signing Grant Holt flashing a header from Chris Humphrey's corner just over in the first minute.

But the Salops took the lead three



MAN MARKING: Ian Roper is closely guarded at the Prostar Stadium

minutes later. Keith Keane's header out went straight to Paul Murray and his low bouncing effort from 25 yards out flew through a crowd of player before nestling in the bottom left-hand corner.

Only some last-ditch tackles from

Keane and Jake Howells denied the Shrews further goals, while Richard Walker almost doubled the hosts' lead on 17 minutes when Logan came for a ball into the box he was never going to get, but Walker's header ran just wide of the left-hand upright.

STAR HATTER Conrad Logan. Stood tall against the super Salops.

Claude Gnaka flashed a fearsome 20-yard effort just wide moments later, before the Shrews again went close twice.

The lively Ben Davies outpaced Luton's defence before firing into the side netting, while a handball seemed to help Kevin McIntyre race clear on 22 minutes, but his tame effort was well saved by the legs of Logan.

David broke free again on 32 minutes, but he curled his effort just wide, while Paul McVeigh had Luton's best effort of the day a minute later, but the Ulsterman's 30-yard drive was well turned over the bar by Glyn Garner as the Shrews stopper made his only save of the day.

And the Hatters almost levelled two minutes before the break when Martin and Craddock combined to set up Jarvis on the edge of the area following a Keane long throw, but Jarvis' scorching strike seared wide of the target.

The Salops ruled the second half. Logan denied Davies just two minutes in, while he produced another decent stop on 58 minutes to repel Michael Jackson's far post header from a corner.

Town then had decent appeals for a penalty waved away by referee Anthony Taylor on 61 minutes. Shrewsbury had struggled to clear a Luton corner and Davies appeared to go through Craddock to win the ball, but nothing was given.

Holt went close again when he tried to turn a header home at the far post on 63 minutes, while Jackson sent a thumping header just over seconds later.

But Davies made sure of victory for the hosts with a 76th-minute screamer.

A lucky ricochet took Davies into the box and he let fly with a swerving screamer from 10 yards out that flew past Logan and into the net.

And with three minutes left hot-shot Holt wrapped things up and put the icing on the cake for the hosts.

Walker fired in a cross from the left and Holt produced a sublime backheel flick to turn the ball home past Logan.

WHAT MICK MADE OF IT



HATTERS boss Mick Harford admitted his side got what they deserved after losing 3-0 at Shrewsbury.

He said: "I'm very disappointed."

"We had a little spell in the first half but we weren't really at the races today and the ball retention wasn't really very good.

"If you keep giving the ball away it will end up in the back of the net and it did three times today.

"In terms of making decisions on and off the ball today we were very average."

"It wasn't the greatest start and we were under pressure for the first 10 or 15 minutes and we looked like conceding."

"The lads were warned Paul Murray can hit balls from all angles."

"We weren't good today and got what we deserved."

Harford admitted though that he felt the Hatters could have had a penalty when striker Tom Craddock was up-ended in the box.

He said: "It was quite frenetic in the box. It could have gone the other way."

And he also believes that Michael Spillane, playing in the centre of midfield, was lucky not to end up with a broken leg when he was on the receiving end of a poor Mark Tierney tackle in injury time.

He said: "It was a nasty tackle."

"He has got a bad gash in the back of his leg and he is in a bit of pain. He is fortunate he hasn't broken his leg."

Harford also had praise for keeper Conrad Logan, adding: "Conrad has punched well and saved a few shots. The goals weren't down to him."

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
Tues 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	2-1	Craddock 35, Roper 44	3,052	24
Tues 28	BOURNEMOUTH		ABANDONED DUE TO SNOW		
NOV					
Sat 1	Shrewsbury	0-3		6,188	24
Tue 4	Walsall (JP 3)				
Sat 8	ALTRINCHAM (FA 1)				
Sat 15	DAGENHAM & RED				
Sat 22	Rochdale				
Tue 25	BRENTFORD				
DEC					
Sat 6	BARNET				
Sat 13	Wycombe				
Sat 20	MORECAMBE				
Fri 26	Chesterfield				
DEC					
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				

Independent fans' group set to lodge complaint with FA

HATTERS: An independent Luton Town supporters group are set to lodge a complaint with the Football Association over the Hatters' treatment earlier this year.

Mark Carlisle, who is leading the protest, appealed to both the FA and the Independent Football Ombudsman earlier this year with regard to the 10-point penalty that was awarded to the Hatters for financial irregularities.

Both parties rejected the appeal and Carlisle is hoping to gather enough support this time around to make them reconsider their respective verdicts.

Anyone who is interested in joining up with the protest is encouraged to send a blank email to mailto:admin@facomplaint.co.uk or Subj ect-Subscribe.