

Price rules slow start as Daggers triumph

**Dagenham & Redbridge 2
Luton Town 1**

SLACKNESS at the back was the Hatters downfall as they went down 2-1 at The London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Stadium on Saturday, writes Alec Swann.

That is the view of new on-loan keeper Lewis Price whose bow in Luton's colours ended in disappointment.

The Derby man produced a solid display between the posts – his sweeping up being particularly impressive – but the combination of a slow start and defensive lapses proved to be costly.

He said: "If we'd have started better it might have been a different story, but it took for us to go a goal down before we even started playing football."

"We didn't start very well which is disappointing because I don't think they're the best of teams."

"We played some good stuff at times. We looked good going forward, just defensively we didn't look the best."

"Going forward I don't think there is too much of a problem, but we need to tighten up defensively and work harder to stop things happening."

In East London, the Hatters gave as good as they got, but once again came out as losers.

They created enough chances to have won the game, and on the balance of play perhaps just shaded it, but the hosts were always a threat on the break and will feel that were worth something from the encounter.

The switch from 4-3-3 to 4-2-2 gave the Hatters a more solid look, but it was the home side who were quickest out of the blocks.

Price made a decisive intervention in the eight minute after a cross caused hesitancy in the Hatters' defence and moments later Ed Asafu-Adjaye's blushes were spared as Ben Strevens, who had capitalised on the full-back's mistake, had a shot deflected wide.

Rossi Jarvis then headed off the

line before, in the 20th minute, Dagenham deservedly went in front.

Matt Ritchie's low cross from the left somehow found Foster who clamorily controlled before rifling the ball past Price.

Luton responded well, Asa Hall hitting the post and this heralded Luton's first real pressure.

Tom Craddock should have done better when he shot over from Ian Roper's knockdown and Ian Henderson's deflected shot brought out the best in the Daggers' keeper Tony Roberts who was completely wrong-footed.

Roberts denied Craddock at the start of the second half before Price did well to prevent Jon Nurse from extending Dagenham's lead.

Luton, with no choice but to press forward, were becoming increasingly susceptible to Dagenham's pace up front and their task was made harder in the 56th minute when Saunders' cross somehow found its way into the Luton net with Foster being given the goal.

Two minutes before the hour, Henderson collected Jarvis' pass and slotted the ball clinically past Roberts, but Luton's chances were dealt a blow minutes later when Kevin Nicholls left the field with a hamstring injury.

Ian Roper almost put the Hatters back on level terms midway through the half, but his shot through a crowd of players was cleared off the line by Saunders. Gallen then turned well in the area only to see his shot have the sting taken out of it by a perfectly-timed challenge.

As the encounter entered the final five minutes, Craddock stabbed a shot wide, but that proved to be their last chance as time ran out.

The defeat extended the winless-run to six games and Price knows that things have to change, and soon.

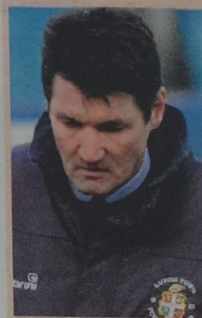
He added: "I think we played well enough to at least get a draw out of it and created enough chances to go on and win it."

"It'll be a good team for the future, but at the minute we need to start picking up results."



AERIAL BATTLE: Daggers' centre-half Magnus Okuonghae climbs above his opposite number Ian Roper during the home side's 2-1 victory

WHAT MICK MADE OF IT



HATTERS boss Mick Harford was left an annoyed man after watching his side go down 2-1 at the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Stadium.

The visitors created plenty of chances, but their inability to put them away proved costly.

Harford said: "I'd like to change the record, but I feel like I keep repeating myself all the time."

"We were the better team for the majority of the game, obviously we go 2-0 down and then respond with a goal, then there's only one team wanting to try and go and get something from the game."

"Chances wise, we had four or five in the first half and probably more in the second half."

"When it got to 2-1, all Dagenham wanted to do was run the clock down for the last half an hour."

A poor start saw the Hatters go a goal down, but his charges' response was praised by Harford.

He added: "First 20 minutes we were very poor, we didn't start particularly well – they did."

"But when we got a grip of the game there was only one team in the game. Again, it's a couple of defensive lapses."

"The players were warned that they would be coming to a tight ground and Dagenham would get the ball in the 18-yard box as often and as quickly as possible. Twice it happened and they scored two goals from it."

"That's the disappointing factor on my behalf."

And Harford was left to bemoan his side's ill-fortune, saying: "At the moment, Luton Town Football Club, me as a manager, the players, who are in there disappointed, are we just not getting the breaks."

"We are not getting the breaks and it's disappointing because we are not getting what our football deserves at the moment."

McCall asks for personal hearing

HATTERS: Bradford City boss Stuart McCall has requested a personal hearing over his FA misconduct charge that was incurred after the 3-3 draw at Kenilworth Road.

McCall was sent to the stands during the fiery encounter and was later charged for using foul and abusive language towards assistant referee Mike George.

McCall said: "I was sent off by the referee for encroachment on the pitch which was 100% correct. I've no arguments with that, but what the fourth official says I'm alleged to have said is totally untrue."

"I want the chance to say that the fourth official's report is not correct."

In positive territory at long last – 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 (JP2)	2-2	Martin 39, 55 (won 4-3 on pens)	2,029	
Sat 11	DARLINGTON	1-2	Gnakpa 31	5,560	24
Sat 18	ACCRINGTON	1-2	Hall 34	5,492	24
Tue 21	Grimby 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		24
NOV					
Sat 1	Shrewsbury	0-3		6,188	24
Tue 4	Walsall (JP3)	1-0	Jarvis 90	1,844	-
Sat 8	ALTRINCHAM (FA1)	0-0		3,200	-
Sat 15	DAGENHAM & RED	2-1	Davis 6, McVeigh 41	5,402	24
Tue 18	Altrincham (FA1R)	0-0	(Luton won 4-2 on penalties)	2,397	-
Sat 22	Rochdale	0-2		2,901	24
Tue 25	BRENTFORD	0-1		5,248	24
Sat 29	Southend (FA2)	1-3	Spillane 80	4,111	-
DEC					
Tues 2	BOURNEMOUTH	3-3	OG 18, Gallen 56, McVeigh 83	6,773	24
Sat 6	BARNET	3-1	McVeigh 11, Martin 15, OG 88	5,536	24
Sat 13	Wycombe	0-0		5,567	24
Tue 16	COLCHESTER (JP4)	1-0	Gnakpa 30	2,638	-

DEC	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 20	MORECAMBE	1-1	Spillane 51	5,664	24
Fri 26	Chesterfield	2-2	Craddock 56, Roper 90	4,243	24
Sun 28	LINCOLN CITY	3-2	Martin 31, 33, Roper 50	6,643	24
JAN					
Tue 13	Chester City	2-2	Martin 22, Emanuel 27	1,652	24
Sat 17	Darlington	1-5	Martin 30	3,319	24
Tue 20	Brighton (JP5F1)	0-0		6,127	-
Sat 24	BRADFORD CITY	3-3	Hall 5, 90, Wasiu 37	6,053	24
Tue 27	Bournemouth	1-1	Hollands og 11	5,230	24
Sat 31	BURY	1-2	Hall 36	5,545	24
FEB					
Sat 7	Accrington	POSTPONED – New date to be announced			
Sat 14	Dagenham & Red	1-2	Henderson 58	2,310	24
Tue 17	BRIGHTON (JP5F2)				
Sat 21	SHREWSBURY				
Sat 28	Port Vale				
MAR					
Tue 3	GILLINGHAM				
Sat 7	EXETER CITY				
Sat 10	Notts County				
Sat 14	Aldershot Town				
Tue 17	GRIMSBY TOWN				
Sat 21	MACCLESFIELD				
Sat 28	Morecambe				
Tue 31	ROTHERHAM				
APR					
Sat 4	WYCOMBE				
Sat 11	Lincoln City				
Mon 13	CHESTERFIELD				
Sat 18	Barnet				
Sat 25	ROCHDALE				
MAY					
Sat 2	Brentford				