



CROW SAYS TO THE ROYALS OF GRITTY



ON TARGET: Secret Claude Gnabla celebrates his goal for the Hatters

CAMBRIDGE had super-sub Danny Crow to thank for a point in a grandstand finish at Kenilworth Road.

Crow came off the bench to replace Lee Phillips with just 15 minutes left and United two down.

He grabbed a goal just six minutes later, then kept his cool to convert an injury time penalty as Cambridge turned the tables on their hosts.

Luton manager Richard Money watched two points slip away – and immediately said he needs to stamp out his side's lack of discipline in key moments.

Luton fans needed no invitation to remind the travelling supporters of the events in September at the Abbey Stadium when Cambridge, two goals and a man to the good, blew up and lost in a 4-3 thriller, but Martin Lang's side had the last laugh that time.

Claude Gnabla and Tom Crodock put the Hatters firmly in the driving seat, but they hit the self-destruct button and they gave Crow out the lead and they gave away two key penalties.

Home keeper Kevin Pilkington made a superb save to block Chris Holtby's first attempt but deep into stoppage time United got another – and Crow made no mistake.

Money said: "I thought our performance was absolutely terrific. The game had everything – a swirling wind, almost a hail storm, and a great atmosphere. I thought it was a great advert for Conference football."

"The players have been made perfectly well aware of what I think. There is a lack of discipline about us that I have to eradicate very quickly and it's a lack of discipline in key moments and in ridiculous moments at times."

"I am not going to dwell too much other



By Matt Badcock

than the fact it is two very important points dropped. I will look at our performance and hope everyone will agree it was a tremendous performance by our team and a great game."

Luton got the breakthrough on the hour. Kevin Nicholas delivered a superb curling free-kick for Gnabla to volley past Danny Potter.

Cambridge were reeling and Luton should have had a second on 71 minutes when Cambridge right-back Rory McAuley mis-controlled on the edge of the box allowing winger Adam Newton a clear sight of goal, but with just Potter to beat he dragged his shot wide of the left-hand upright.

Crodock got the goal he deserved on 79 minutes. Released by Newton, he checked and smashed the ball in the top corner.

Cambridge dug deep and two minutes later pushed one back. Robbie Wilmon's shot was parried by Kevin Pilkington, but Crow was on the spot to head home.

They gave in belief and were awarded a penalty when Jai Reason was hauled down by Freddie Murray. Holtby's shot was well saved by Pilkington's legs.

But referee Naylor offered another lifeline in time added on after Crow was tripped. Holtby stopped aside for his strike partner who sent Pilkington the wrong way.

Lang said: "It's a very valuable point. I didn't think we passed the ball well in the first half, but at two nil down with the handoffs off we looked like a proper side. There is a good side in them, but sometimes confidence is a strange thing and getting the first goal back so quickly was important."

"It was a high pressure situation for Danny with Chris missing a penalty before him – but he did well and it's gone for us."



ACROBATIC: Luton's Keith Menee gets an early header in under pressure from Cambridge United's Anthony Tonkin

PICTURES: Gush Chen

MATCH STATS

LUTON v CAMBRIDGE

3 SHOTS ON TARGET 8

3 SHOTS OFF TARGET 5

8 CORNERS 6

6 OFFSIDE 2

13 GOALS CONCEDED 13

1 YELLOW CARDS 3

6 RED CARDS 3

STAR MAN: Danny Crow

(Cambridge United)

ATT: 4,518

ENTERTAINMENT: ****

REF RATING: 5/10 Naylor 6/10

LUTON TOWN 14-4-09: Hargreaves 6, K.

Smith 10, B. Phillips 17, Richard

7, A. King 10, Graham 1, Tomkins 1, K.

7, Galloway 10, Phillips 10, C. C. C.

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