



GATESHEAD 0 LUTON TOWN 1

Farman 28 (og)



Ring-rusty Hatters grab lucky win at Gateshead

09/10

MATCH STATS

GATESHEAD v LUTON

7 SHOTS ON TARGET	2
9 SHOTS OFF TARGET	7
5 CORNERS	3
4 OFFSIDE	9
9 FOULS COMMITTED	13
0 YELLOW CARDS	0
0 RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Phil Turnbull (Gateshead)

ATT: 1218

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Richard West 8/10

GATESHEAD 4-4-2: Farman 5, Baxter 7, Robinson 6, Gate 7, Francis 17 7, Curtis 7, Bains 7, McDermott 5 (Richardson 67 6) Williams 90, Turnbull 8, Armstrong 9, Clare 6, Phillips 7. Subs not used: Prossett, Jones
LUTON TOWN 4-4-2: Pilkington 7, Blackett 5, Newton 13, (7), G Pilkington 8, Gnappka 8, Howells 6, Murney 6, Hall 6, Jarvis 6, Keane 7, Barnes-Homer 5 (Nwoko 86 6), Craddock 6 (Nellthorpe 82 6) Subs: not used: Gore, Poku.

By Jeff Bowron

GATESHEAD were left to rue missed chances and a costly howler from young keeper Paul Farman on the half hour that gifted Luton an unconvincing victory on Tyneside.

The Hatters were ring rusty and were fortunate to take all three points as relegation threatened Gateshead again pulled up just short - a dark art they have perfected this season.

Gateshead had the lions share of possession and created far more chances, but despite failing to get a grip on the game Luton rode their luck to gain a win in their first league game of the year.

The final week of the transfer window will now be crucial to Gateshead's survival hopes but manager Ian Bogie is convinced the relegation battle will be won.

"I'm devastated with the result and it was one of the most bizarre goals I've seen," said Bogie. "What

should have been a routine take ended up the back of the net and it was a cruel way to lose the game. "The performance was excellent. We've asked all the questions, had 80 per cent of the play and had untold chances but didn't capitalise.

"I'm proud of the lads but lady luck isn't smiling on us. We did well all across the park and if we can perform at that level and take our chances we'll be alright."

Gateshead almost took the lead after just 21 seconds when the impressive Graeme Armstrong's cross from the left drifted over Kevin Pilkington to hit the bar.

Within a minute Phil Turnbull's lob saw Daryl Clare's close range volley saved by Pilkington and then captain Kris Gate's 30-yard volley was straight at the Hatters keeper.

Luton had started poorly and they never hit their straps even though Gateshead's momentum was checked when Gate was stretched off with an ankle injury, the visitors having just lost Shane

ON TARGET: Luton's Claude Gnappka shoots for goal

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

Blackett.

Armstrong was wide with a sideways volley before Farman, under no pressure, somehow allowed Claude Gnappka's innocuous low cross to go through his legs and just over the line.

It was a sure-fire candidate for a future edition of Football Bloopers and an incident that understandably knocked the wind out of Gateshead's sails.

Undeterred substitute Alex Francis drove a long range free kick into Pilkington's arms while Armstrong

did likewise with a six-yard bullet header from Neale McDermott's precision cross that should have found the net.

Gateshead earned three consecutive corners at the end of the half and then Phillips and Turnbull went close after the break.

A disappointing Luton rarely threatened, though Tom Craddock headed a Matt Barnes-Homer cross wide - but it was Gateshead who continued to push forward.

Wayne Phillips was wide with a 14-yard shot on the turn and then a

half cleared Craig Baxter cross saw Francis, who had earlier had an effort ruled out for offside, shoot just wide. The equaliser just wouldn't come though Phillips had a chance deep into injury time only for Asa Hall to make a block much to the frustration of Gateshead's largest crowd of the season.

"We looked a bit rusty and were not good enough with the ball," admitted Hatters boss Richard Money. "But there was a great deal of commitment and honesty and we got the result we wanted."