

Lewer's charges drop away after bright beginning

NOT A LOT IN IT Bradley Hudson-Odoi, playing on the right at midfield, reacts after going close for Histon SPO 624207



02/10
Histon 0
Luton Town 2
By
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A NIGHT which began with hope ended in disappointment as Histon lost to Luton and made it two defeats on the trot.

The Stutes enjoyed a decent first period and were unfortunate not to go ahead against the Hatters.

But the home team ran out of steam and ideas in the second half and could have conceded more than the two goals they did.

Speculation and rumours are nothing new to Histon fans this season and there were plenty of talking points before the match had even started.

Stutes manager Alan Lewer and chairman Tony Roush have made no secret of their admiration for players currently on the books at Cambridge United. And tongues were wagging before kick-off due to the appearance of two R Costings Abbey Stadium employees at the Glass World Stadium.

Dan Gleeson was one of them, who has been heavily linked with a move to Bridge Road ever since Lewer told the Vows he wanted to sign him on loan, along with his U's team-mates Robbie Willmott and Mark Beesley.

Goalkeeper Danny Potter was the other United player in the crowd. But the shot-stopper was adamant he was at the game purely as a spectator, while Gleeson had come for a pre-match meal and to catch up with former U's assistant boss Lewer.

So the contest began with the turmoil mill well and truly turning and the home fans quickly had even more to talk about.

Barely 30 seconds had gone when Bradley Hudson-Odoi burst into the penalty area and sent a rasping drive past Kevin Pilkington, only to see the ball thud against the crossbar and cleared from danger.

Hudson-Odoi was one of two changes made to the Stutes' starting line-up, with the ex-Herford attacker replacing Michael Frew on the right flank and Andrew Tidswell coming in for the suspended Adam Bygrave. Youngster Max York earned a place on the bench.

It meant the hosts reverted to a 4-4-2



formation, with Tidswell supporting Danny Wright up front.

And the latter could have broken the deadlock with 11 minutes gone, but it was denied by a defender as he went to head home Gareth Gwillim's excellent cross.

Histon fans would dearly love to still be watching Josh Simpson ply his trade in a red and black shirt. The midfielder was in the crowd and there is no doubt the hosts miss his creativity and quality on the ball.

But the supporters had plenty to be encouraged by as Lewer's men pegged the Hatters back for much of the first period, with the visiting defenders being forced into several heavy and poorly-struck clearances.

Luton were struggling to create anything, but they came alive as the first half went on and Danny Naishitt had to alert to keep out Tom Craddock's low drive, before Kevin Gallen cruddled the good chance wide.

At the other end, a lovely piece of skill

saw Wright create a chance for himself, but he chipped it unly over.

The second half got off to a disappointing start for the Stutes as Adam Tann limped off and was replaced by youngster Callum Stewart.

And it got worse for Lewer's charges as, moments later, Luton debutant Jonas Kovacs sneaked in at the near post and headed Kevin Nicholls' corner past Naishitt.

Histon continued to show plenty of endeavour as they tried to get back on level terms and nifty footwork from Wright and Tidswell created two chances for Nathaniel Knight-Perceval, who was unable to add the finishing touches.

The home team's midfield appeared to visibly tire as the second half reached the midway point and the visitors started to get a foothold.

Craddock and Adam Newton, in particular, took advantage of the extra room they had to manoeuvre in and threatened regularly with their direct

LEAP OF FAITH: Danny Wright climbs high only to miss a header. The Stutes' hitman was pipped up front with Andrew Tidswell (inset) in a new-look strike partnership. Pictures: Vixie Linco SPO 624205 & SPO 624221



running. And it came as no surprise when Asa Hall cut inside and rifled a left-foot shot past the despairing Naishitt from the edge of the box with 17 minutes left.

There was a real danger the floodgates could open as Histon continued to struggle in the face of severe Luton pressure.

Youngsters York, who had a decent effort repelled, and Daniel Sparkes came on to give the hosts some fresh legs, but it was the away side who looked livelier and Newton drew a good reflex save from Naishitt.

Histon: Naishitt 6, Oveland 6, Tann (Stewart 49), Langford 6, Gwillim 27, Hudson-Odoi 6, Smith 4, Okay (York 79) 6, Knight-Perceval 6, Wright (Sparkes 79) 6, Tidswell 6. Substitutes not used: Worrille, Welch.

Referee: P. Pilkington. Newton, G. Pilkington, Kovacs, Murray, Gwillim (Histon); Hester, Zili, Keane, Nicholls (Hewitts 78), Hall, Callan (Hatch 48), Craddock. Substitutes not used: Asa, Adigbo, Goss.

Referee: D. Hipsleydale (Lincolnshire). Attendance: 1,543.

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