

Luton Tn 6
Histon 3
By
MARC BEYELER



HISTON sank closer to the relegation mire following this defeat at Kenilworth Road last night.

Histon were totally outplayed at times and although they showed admirable spirit to get back into the match the result never looked in doubt from the moment Jake Howells fired Luton in front.

And with Forest Green winning 1-0 at home to Crawley, the drop remains a possibility for Alan Lewer's men.

Histon made a decent start and after a surging run down the right by Laure Oyeabanjo in the eighth minute, Ed Asafu-Adjaye had to intervene to deny Charlie Sheringham a free header at the far post.

The home fans expected nothing less than an easy win and they aired their frustrations in the opening minutes.

Nathaniel Knight-Percival tested Mark Tyler with a low long range effort but the shot lacked power and the Luton keeper made a comfortable save.

But the best early chance fell to Tom Craddock in the 11th minute. The forward received the ball just inside the area, but skewed his shot, allowing Histon to clear.

But it was not long before Stutes' stopper David Knight was called into action. Another Hatters' attack down the left stretched the Histon defence, and, when the ball was played in, Adam Newton prodded it goalwards, forcing Knight to make the save.

Histon continued to have faith going forward though and in the 21st minute Glen Southam did well to create space before drilling in a low cross that Tyler got to just ahead of the lurking Sheringham.

A free-flowing game saw Luton go back on the attack and a quick exchange of passes between Kevin Gallen and Keith Keane saw the ball worked out to Howells.

He hit a spectacular shot from the edge of the penalty area, but Knight made another diving save to keep the hosts out.

But it all started to go wrong in the 29th minute when a mistake by Oyeabanjo gifted the ball to Craddock and he slipped the ball to the onrushing Howells, who blasted into the corner.

The lead was doubled just two minutes later following another mistake, this time by Aman Verma. He lost out to Keane in the middle of the park and the midfielder strode forward, playing in Craddock, who made no mistake with a cool finish.

Confidence quickly drained from the Histon players while Luton stroked the ball around with increasing assurance.

Daniel Sparkes' cross almost found Sheringham as Histon

Stutes given a Hatter-ing to slip into peril

09/10



ON TARGET: Glen Southam, who netted his team's third goal with a stunning left-foot effort

finished the half strongly, but it was Knight who was called into action, reacting brilliantly to keep out Simon Heslop's effort.

Oyeabanjo's disappointing injury, which prompted his replacement a minute before half-time by Callum Stewart.

A woeful pass by Tann in the 48th minute gifted Craddock a clear run on goal and his finish saw Luton open a 3-0 lead.

Seven minutes later it was 4-0, as Howells prodded home from close range after Knight had saved an effort from

Asafu-Adjaye. The Stutes fans finally had something to celebrate in the 68th minute, Sparkes firing the ball into the roof of the net, and, in the 75th minute, Histon scored again, Knight-Percival latching on to Sheringham's flick-on and applying a cool finish.

But hopes of a surprise comeback ended three minutes later. Southam was adjudged to have fouled Heslop and Craddock slammed home the penalty to restore the three-goal lead.

Gallen added a sixth six minutes from time, but

Southam restored some Histon pride with a sensational left-footed shot from just inside the area in the dying minutes.

Luton Town: Tyler, Asafu-Adjaye, Keane, Pilkington, Newton (Barnes-Homer 82), Craddock, Blackett, Howells, Gallen (Hatch 88), Murray, Heslop.

Not used: Kovacs, Jarvis, Nelthorpe.
Histon: Knight 77, Oyeabanjo (Stewart 44), Tann 5, Bygrave 6, Okay 6, Smith 6, Verma 6, Southam 6, Knight-Percival 6, Sparkes 6, Sheringham (Tidswell 82).
Not used: Key, York, Taffe.
Booked - Histon: Stewart (foul) 50, Bygrave (foul) 90.

Referee: B Malone. **Attendance:** 7,003.

marc.beyeler

@cambridge-news.co.uk