



'Forget this one and get focused on promotion'

MATCH STATS

LUTON v GATESHEAD

3 SHOTS ON TARGET	3
6 SHOTS OFF TARGET	2
3 CORNERS	4
7 OFFSIDE	1
13 FOULS CONCEDED	9
9 YELLOW CARDS	1
0 RED CARDS	1

STAR MAN: Gary Mulligan (Gateshead)
ATT: 5,958

ENTERTAINMENT: *****
REF RATING: Rob Mitchell 5/10

LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler 6, Keane 6, Pilkington 7, Barnes-Horner 6 (Adams 43, 56, Verma 7, Luntz 7, Howells 5, Aspin-Adams 7, Platt 10, 53, 55, Gnaka 2, Crow 2, Owens 7, Phipps 61, 65, Subbs not used).
GATESHEAD: 4-4-2: Deasy 7, Gate 6, Curtis 4, Clark 4, Williams 7, Turnbull 6, Shaw 5 (White 14, 16, Muligan 8, Fisher 10, 53, Little 7, Hutchinson 4, Carter 40, 46, Tennant 7, Subbs not used; Farmer, Gilkes).

By Robert Dunford

RICHARD MONEY told his side to forget about another stumble in their promotion push, after a highly entertaining encounter.

Daruz Crow and Claude Gnaka pulled back a two-goal deficit to earn a point against ten-man Gateshead, who also saw boss Ian Bogie sent to the stand. The Hatters boss refused to dwell for too long on such an under-par performance.

"It just shows you what football is, it's happened and we move on, I think everyone should congratulate Gateshead on their performance, I thought they were excellent," he admitted.

"We had too many of our big players today who weren't quite at the level we expect them to be.

"What happens is that you end up with a performance that, for the first time at home this year, wasn't what we expected."

Gateshead stunned the high flying Hatters on nine minutes, when Sunderland loanee Michael Liddle unleashed a low drive from over 20 yards out off keeper Mark Tyler's post.

Luton's early setback became even more of an issue on the quarter hour mark.

Martin Brittain's speculative cross from the right deflected off Jake Howells and ended up in the back of Tyler's net.

The mood of the home fans changed on 25 minutes, when Daruz Crow was fed in by Lloyd Owens, rounding the advancing Deasy and slotted home for his seventh of the season.

Jon Shaw should have given Heed another two goal advantage on 33 minutes, when he headed Brittain's fine cross wide from just six yards out.

There was a sense that Shaw's miss could prove costly, which was confirmed a minute later. Alex Lewis swung in a free-kick that ricocheted off the post.



HE'S GOT THE GNAK: Claude Gnaka brings Luton level

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

Gnaka pounced first to net his eighth of the season, but more importantly earn Luton the equalising strike.

Right on half-time, Ben Clark was harshly judged to have brought down Gnaka and shown his second yellow card.

That decision also led to manager Bogie's dismissal from the dugout, and made Gateshead's task just that little bit harder.

The second half showed a more accomplished Gateshead, who didn't look a man short.

As the home fans' frustration grew, two close efforts by sub Tawee Asano in injury time was the best it got for Money's side.

Afterwards, Bogie prepared to make the long trip north a proud man.

"If I'd said that we'd get a point at Luton, or take four points of them in a season, against a team I believe will be promoted this season, a lot of people looking in from the outside would have wanted me locked up," he said.

"I have to say the sending off was

a turning point, it made our players a bit more resolute."

He added: "I thought we were very comfortable in the second half."

"We passed it better with ten men than 11."

"The disappointing thing is we've conceded the first of the two goals when we had ten men on the pitch."

"We picked up an injury to Ben Clark on the side of the pitch, and it was a delivery into the box - where I like to think he would have been."