



Dragons give Luton something to ponder

MATCH STATS

LUTON v WREXHAM

9 SHOTS ON TARGET	2
9 SHOTS OFF TARGET	2
11 CORNERS	1
2 OFFSIDE	0
9 FOULS CONCEDED	9
1 YELLOW CARDS	1
0 RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Marvin Andrews

(Wrexham)

ATT: 6,443

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: Steven Ross 8/10

LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler C, Graham J, G Pilkington 6, Lacey 66, 6, Krocia 6, Asadu-Adiyee 7, Newton 5, Poku 5, D Walker 6, Walcott 6, Watkins 58, 6, Owusu 6 (J Walker 69) Barnes-Homer 6. Subs not used: O'Donnell, K Pilkington.
WREXHAM: 4-4-2: Mayebi 7, D Walker 6, McMillan 7, Andrews 8, Hunt 7, Tolley 7, Fowler 6 (Tomassen 26, 6), Brown 6, Cresswell 6, M Williams 6 (Coback 69, 6), Moss 7 (Stephens 83, 5), Subs Not used: Owen, Salathiel.

By Sam Elliott

THE dress rehearsal for the play-off semi-final ended hours even as Wrexham supporters finally had something to thank Geoff Moss for.

The Dragons fans don't exactly see eye-to-eye with their club's co-owner but he has produced something special for them.

His son Louis, 18, scored 12 minutes into his debut but it wasn't enough as substitute Jason Walker broke the kids' hearts with a late penalty to deny them a fantastic win.

Not-so-subtle Dean Saunders refused to show any of his semi-final hand to Gary Brabin, making 11 changes from the side that saw off Tamworth on Monday.

Saunders' Luton counterpart was less concerned about giving away secrets ahead of Thursday night – even of his starting line up after seven to begin the first leg at the Racecourse.

By the end, Wrexham had given debuts to five players and Saunders was delighted with how they coped at Kenilworth Road.

He said: "I was delighted with the team. For the first half an hour that's the best we have played all season.

"The only let down was the refereeing decision to give Luton a penalty two minutes from the end.

"Louis Moss scored – that will do his confidence the world of good. He is an exciting player and with the number of 17-year-olds out there at the end it bodes well for our future."

Moss Jr grabbed his moment after a bright start from the Wrexham second string. Jamie Tolley picked the pass to Marc Williams at the back post and when the striker eventually got his footwork right, Moss couldn't miss from five yards out.

Wrexham's makeshift side were dealt a blow ten minutes later. Their most experienced player, Lee Fowler, was stretched over with a suspected dislocated elbow.



SPOT ON: Luton's James Walker fires the Hatters level with his late penalty

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

Town were struggling in the heat but Robbie Willmott managed a shot just before half time, however the winger couldn't quite get enough bend on his effort.

Four minutes after half-time, the Hatters' winger hit a daisy cutter that was well-held by stand-in keeper Joslain Mayebi as the home side tried to work a way through.

Willmott was soon hauled off with Thursday in mind but his replacement, Adam Watkins, had an immediate impact.

First he forced a superb low save

from Mayebi and then, at the other end, he denied Tolley with a good block.

Some unorthodox goalkeeping from Mayebi flicked the ball over the crossbar from another Luton replacement, this time Alex Lacey, to preserve the lead.

But it was always going to be inexperience that undid the youthful visitors and when Anthony Stephens tried and failed to usher the ball out for a goal-kick, he gave Dan Walker a push and over the Luton man went.

The harsh penalty was awarded and Jason Walker put the keeper's crazy goal-line dance to the back of his mind to level the scores.

Hatters boss Brabin said: "We went with a number of first team players for a reason. I don't want us to take the foot off the gas – it was important we kept the same tempo and go to Wrexham with some confidence.

"The crowd were fantastic. The bond is back between the fans and players and that can only be a good thing."