

# Ontheroad

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 2011

Luton Town 1  
Wrexham 1

**A gutsy draw from a young battling Wrexham side showed the fighting spirit which will be needed during the upcoming playoff fixtures with only a late leveller from the home side denying the Reds what would have been a deserved victory.**

Dean Saunders made wholesale changes to his side as he looked to preserve the first team squad as best as possible following a number of injuries in the final weeks of the campaign.

With the pair facing each other again in a play-off semi-final first leg at the Racecourse Ground on Thursday night the Red Dragons took even more drastic action, making 11 changes from the side that beat Tamworth 4-2 in North Wales in their last game.

It was actually the home side that made by far the better start with Ed Asafu-Adjaye's cross finding Lloyd Owusu's head but the big striker could only send his effort straight at Joslain Mayebi.

But second-string Wrexham shocked Kenilworth Road as they grabbed the lead on 13 minutes. Marc Williams was allowed all too easily to wriggle his way past George Pilkington and square for the unmarked Louis Moss to tap home from point-blank range, the youngsters' first ever goal for the Reds.

Dan Walker dragged an effort well wide moments later while Matthew Barnes-Homer smashed a difficult opportunity right into the advertising hoardings behind the goal. Despite a strong wind, the Red Dragons were playing the nearer football and looking more of a threat. A wayward Poku effort failed to enliven a dull game while Lee Fowler was carried off after being caught by keeper Mayebi's trailing leg as he thwarted Barnes-Homer as he looked to race through.

Pass after pass went astray as the Hatters looked sloppy in this dead rubber and Dan Walker could only spoon an opportunistic effort well over the unguarded goal after Mayebi had had to head clear.

Wrexham skipper Jamie Tolley drove a free-kick wide on 35 minutes and at the other end a couple of Robbie

Willmott crosses showed promise but found no takers. Declan Walker's fine defensive header prevented Owusu from getting on the end of Willmott's fine centre and Willmott's long-ranger in the third minute of stoppage time was straight into Mayebi's midriff as the referee's half time whistle came as a blessed relief as he brought an excruciating half of football to a close.

Town started the second period with more impetus and Willmott drove on from Barnes-Homer's flick on five minutes in but his low shot was easily saved by Mayebi.

Poku's daisy-cutter thudded into the advertising boards while Zdenek Kroca chested Willmott's cross into the path of Barnes-Homer who could only volley wide of the mark.

With the decibel level at Kenilworth Road rising the home side responded. Substitute Adam Watkins' shot across goal was turned round the post by Mayebi and from the resulting corner Adam Newton's powerful header was turned over the bar by the Wrexham stopper.

Wrexham broke at the other end and only a fantastic sprawling stop from Tyler denied Williams from Adrian Cieslewicz's cross. Town substitute Alex Lacey almost had an instant impact after replacing skipper Pilkington. A quick free-kick released Watkins and his far post cross picked out the young defender whose downward header was turned over the bar by Mayebi on 69 minutes.

The Wrexham stopper then beat away Newton's half volley and it became all Luton as the Hatters pressed relentlessly for an equaliser.

Unfortunately for the young Wrexham side Town finally scored an equaliser with just two minutes to go. Dan

Walker showed great endeavour to chase down a ball over the top and just as he looked to hook it back from the byline Anthony Stephens dove in to give away a penalty that Jason Walker gratefully smashed down the middle much to the delight of the Kenilworth Road end.

Substitute Rob Salathiel headed harmlessly over at the other end while Jason Walker rose majestically to head Asafu-Adjaye's cross tamely at Mayebi deep into stoppage time.

Watkins had one effort blocked and sliced another well wide as neither side could quite find a winner ahead of two games in the space of six days against the same opponents.

## LUTON TOWN

Tyler, Graham, Pilkington (Lacey 67), Newton, Barnes-Homer, Willmott (Watkins 58), Kroca, Asafu-Adjaye, Poku, Dan Walker, Owusu (Jason Walker 73)

**SUBS NOT USED**  
O'Donnell, Pilkington

## WREXHAM

Mayebi, Walker, Andrews, McMillan, Hunt, Brown, Tolley, Fowler (Tomassen 25), Cieslewicz, Williams (Stephens 72), Moss (Salathiel 83)

**SUBS NOT USED**  
Owen, Colbeck

**ATTENDANCE**  
6,443 (Wrexham 232)

