

Ed gets thumbs up from Brabs

What they said...

LUTON boss Gary Brabin praised mainstay left-back Ed Aspinall-Adjeje for the impact he has had on the Hatters, soundly returning from loan at relegated Aston a fortnight ago.

The 20-year-old, usually a right-sided defender, looked accomplished as captain Fred Murray's replacement and even bagged his first goal for the club. Brabin said: "Ed has performed really well and his attitude in training has been fantastic."

"He's one of the players I've had a little bit of a pop at for certain things after the game, but he deserved his goal and he deserved his place in the starting XI, he was excellent."



SURPRISED: Saunders

Dragns manager Dean Saunders refused to blame the club's off-field problems for their poor showing - the players were paid late last week and the well-documented £200,000 tax bill had been settled to allow them to compete in the game.

He said: "I don't know (if morale has been affected) but I was just a bit surprised at how we've played today because we haven't played like that."

"We had a disastrous result when we lost 7-2 to Gateshead and it felt a bit similar to that. It's disappointing for everyone."

"For the players, it was one of the highlights of their careers - but in the end some of them were like rabbits caught in headlights."

HAPPY HATTERS ARE FOR THE POOLS



GROUP HUG: Claude Gnoka is mobbed by his team mates after scoring Luton's second

By Stuart Hammonds

ON THE DAY Britain went to the polls, Wrexham were left feeling like the Liberal Democrats - battered, bruised and never likely to be first past the post.

Manager Dean Saunders, like Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, had asked his players to vote for change, sweeping potentially long Conference careers for the heights of the Football League.

Unfortunately for the Welshman, they didn't listen and - like the voters the Lib Dems wanted - didn't turn up as Luton took a three-goal lead home with them for Tuesday's second leg.

Saunders used the "rabbits in the headlights" cliché to describe his side's bewildered appearance. Luton, on the other hand, were rampant in a first half that saw Lee Lewies, Claude Gnoka and Ed Aspinall-Adjeje all over the mouthful Welsh defence to grab the goals that have seemingly locked their place in the Eastlands final on Saturday week.

Saunders said: "I'm not angry, I just feel a bit sorry for the lads because we didn't turn up tonight."



HE'S GOT THE GNOK: Claude Gnoka scores Luton's second

"To work as hard as we have done all season and then to play like that on an occasion when the crowd have turned up in their thousands and the live TV cameras are here, side with the likes of Sionia, Mark Creighton, Chris Blackburn, Dean Keates, Gareth Taylor and Michael Knight-Percival.

Luton boss Gary Brabin had spent his ten regular league games in charge chopping and changing his side to find the winning formation ahead of the play-offs.

Maxwell had slowly reprimed ed right-back Curtis Obeng after a loose throw in back to the stopper that seemed to trigger the malaise. And after the opener he appeared to have words with Sinclair. "One of the top end lads" among the away fans, and it should have been two, first when Howells raised the crossbar and then when Keith Keane pounced on a loose Sinclair pass to Jay Harris, though



THE FIRST GOAL came on 16 minutes. Saunders felt Lewies had fouled Blackburn on halfway, but it could have been worse.

Wrexham had top-half and play-off experience running through their side with the likes of Sionia, Mark Creighton, Chris Blackburn, Dean Keates, Gareth Taylor and Michael Knight-Percival.

Luton boss Gary Brabin had spent his ten regular league games in charge chopping and changing his side to find the winning formation ahead of the play-offs.

Maxwell had slowly reprimed ed right-back Curtis Obeng after a loose throw in back to the stopper that seemed to trigger the malaise. And after the opener he appeared to have words with Sinclair. "One of the top end lads" among the away fans, and it should have been two, first when Howells raised the crossbar and then when Keith Keane pounced on a loose Sinclair pass to Jay Harris, though



THE FIRST GOAL came on 16 minutes. Saunders felt Lewies had fouled Blackburn on halfway, but it could have been worse.

Wrexham had top-half and play-off experience running through their side with the likes of Sionia, Mark Creighton, Chris Blackburn, Dean Keates, Gareth Taylor and Michael Knight-Percival.

Luton boss Gary Brabin had spent his ten regular league games in charge chopping and changing his side to find the winning formation ahead of the play-offs.

Maxwell had slowly reprimed ed right-back Curtis Obeng after a loose throw in back to the stopper that seemed to trigger the malaise. And after the opener he appeared to have words with Sinclair. "One of the top end lads" among the away fans, and it should have been two, first when Howells raised the crossbar and then when Keith Keane pounced on a loose Sinclair pass to Jay Harris, though

LUTON BOSS WARNS: THIS TEAM IS FAR FROM OVER

SEMI-FINAL, SECOND LEG PREVIEW
LUTON TOWN v WREXHAM
TUESDAY, MAY 10, KICK-OFF: 7.45PM
By Stuart Hammonds

GARY BRABIN will instruct his Luton players to keep their foot pressed firmly to the metal to ensure their place in the Blue Square Bet Premier play-off final.

The former Cambridge boss has lost just one in 11 games since succeeding Richard Mowat at the end of March - and he wants to make sure that becomes one in 12 going into what he hopes will be a trip to face AFC Wimbledon on Fleetwood at Manchester City.

Brabin said: "We've got to keep doing the same things that we've done here. I've not let the lads take their foot off the gas since I took over and I think they all understand that."

"At certain times I've had to leave players out because it's been their time to rest, but once we are on the football field we've got a standard that we have to stick to and to be fair to the squad, they have been doing it."

"It'll be a great atmosphere under the lights at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, but we aren't thinking about Eastlands. This is by no means over."

"It's a good start for us, but in some respects the pressure is more on us now. People will be thinking it's a foregone conclusion and it's not. We've got to get on with it and to be fair to the squad, they have been doing it."

"We came here to get a win and I thought it was a great start for the lads. There are parts of the game I'm disappointed with. I feel we could have scored more goals and played better at times in the second half but overall it was a good start and we've just got to prepare properly now for the next leg."

At kick-off, both sets of fans sang "You're a star, wherever you will be, we're going to Man City..." in unison. By the time Brabin had concluded, the Luton faithful were singing it alone.

FEET ON THE GROUND: Luton boss Gary Brabin