

Tyler's spot-kick stop saves Town

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BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

DARLINGTON 1
LUTON TOWN 1

LUTON goalkeeper Mark Tyler's injury-time penalty stop saved the Hatters' blushes as they came away with a point from Darlington in the Conference Premier.

Ryan Bowman's penalty four minutes from time looked set to give Darlington the win before Stuart Fleetwood's equaliser in the dying seconds.

But there was still time for Godfrey Poku to give away a second penalty of the game, but on this occasion Tyler went the right way to deny Bowman.

The Quakers had not won in 2012, but a disastrous last ten minutes from the Hatters, in which Janos Kovacs was shown their fourth red card in three games, looked set to hand Darlington the points.

However Fleetwood's 11th of the season, gave the visiting Hatters fans a boost and an important point in their bid for promotion.



TOP SUPPORT: Gary Brabin leads his men in applause for Luton's fans

Town came into the game on the back of successive away defeats, going down 1-0 to York City in their FA Trophy semi-final first leg after a 2-0 loss away to Wrexham.

But boss Gary Brabin was handed a boost after Robbie Willmott and Fleetwood were both passed fit to play, the latter playing the decisive role off the bench.

Despite their disappointing recent form, Luton made a flying start putting the Quakers under pressure and dominating possession.

But while the Hatters kept hold of the ball, they struggled to create many chances with seven cor-

ners in 20 minutes belying their lack of a genuine attacking threat.

The visitors did put Jordan Pickford under some pressure from the last of those corners as Kovacs' diving header from Willmott's cross was diverted over, but it was Darlington who had the best chance.

Aaron Brown's low free-kick forced a great save from Tyler before Neil Wainwright's shot went wide from the ensuing corner.

The Hatters were dominating possession – having two-thirds of the ball in the first half – but could not make it count.

But after a quiet first 80 minutes, the last ten produced all the excitement with Kovacs being sent off ten minutes from time for taking down Bowman as the last man. That inspired Darlington who earned a penalty when Poku made a clumsy challenge on Bowman, and the striker duly finished it off.

The visitors fought back and young substitute Jake Woolley set up Fleetwood for the equaliser before Tyler's heroics at the death to deny Bowman a winner.

And at the end Brabin led his men over to the travelling Town fans to applaud them.



HEROICS: Stuart Fleetwood (top) celebrates the equaliser while Mark Tyler saves a late penalty

photos by Gareth

