

Taylor of woe as Hatters haven't a Klu at Rovers

BY JAMES MARTIN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
FOREST GREEN ROVERS 3
LUTON TOWN 0

LUTON failed to further cement their standing in the Blue Square Bet Premier play-off places as striker Matty Taylor's second-half double gave Forest Green an easy victory.

The Hatters travelled to the New Lawn having won only once away from home in league in 2012 and found themselves a goal down in the 35th minute thanks to Yan Klukowski's strike.

Things went from bad to worse after the restart as Taylor hit Luton, who are still fourth with 66 points, on the break with 16 minutes remaining before netting a second late on.

Luton should have taken the lead with little more than 15 minutes on the clock as Keith Keane created an opportunity for Stuart Fleetwood to score.

Keane pounced on some slack defending by Eddie Oshodi to put Fleetwood through one-on-one with keeper Sam Russell however he couldn't convert against his former employers. The 25-

year-old fired an effort straight at Russell that looped over the bar while the Rovers keeper had to be quick to prevent Aaron O'Connor latching onto a smart Keane through ball soon after.

Forest Green had a golden chance of their own to break the deadlock as the half hour mark approached as striker Taylor raced onto Jake Howells' loose back pass.

Taylor rounded Luton keeper Mark Tyler however with midfielder Keane tracking back at pace he ran out of steam and could only manage an effort that crashed into the side netting.

However the hosts didn't have to wait long to open the scoring with Klukowski being allowed to wander and receive Keiron Forbes' pass and then drive home across Tyler in the 35th minute.

O'Connor sliced over shortly after for the Hatters in a tame response with Rovers ending the half on a high – left-back Chris Stokes firing just wide after a driving run.

Luton flew out of the blocks after the break and immediately tested Russell – Robbie Willmott pouncing on defender Janos Kovacs' lofted pass and making the Forest Green keeper work.

However that was as good as it got for

the Hatters for the majority of the second half as passes from substitute Godfrey Poku and Keane went astray in good areas.

Luton still pressed but conceded a breakaway goal in the 74th minute as Rovers quickly cleared from a corner and Taylor lashed home with only Curtis Osano back defending.

Taylor's strike effectively ended the game as a contest but he bagged his second on the counter again in the 89th

minute as Luton woes away from home continued.

LUTON: Tyler, Pilkington, Howells, Osano, Kovacs, Keane, Lawless (Henry, 70), Willmott, Watkins (Boucaud, 46), Fleetwood, O'Connor (McAllister, 61)
UNUSED SUBS: Poku, Crow

REFEREE: Handley

ATTENDANCE: 975



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GARY Brabin said sorry to supporters after last night's dismal 3-0 defeat at Forest Green Rovers.

"I'd like to apologise to the fans. I'm sure they feel let down and as embarrassed as I do," the Luton boss admitted.

He added: "I can't believe I just didn't think we had the performance in us."

Asked if that was the straw for him as boss, he said: "I hope not. I'm the first to admit it's not good enough!"

For more go to: www.luton-dunstable.co.uk

