

Great point – but it could be better

12/13

By JEFF BOWRON

GATESHEAD held title favourites Luton Town to a draw in front of crowd approaching 7,000 at Kenilworth Road – but it could have been so much better.

The Heed roared into a two-goal interval lead courtesy of two goals in 10 minutes from strike duo Liam Hatch and Yemi Odubade.

The rampant Tynesiders had chances to put the game beyond a reeling Luton who were booed off at half-time.

The introduction of summer signing from Gateshead, Jon Shaw, for the second half, however, galvanised the Hatters.

Shaw scored 35 goals for the Tynesiders last season and he equalised on the hour, Stuart Fleetwood then levelling 10 minutes later.

Undeterred The Heed finished strongly with Hatch's late header clipping the bar to leave manager Ian Bogie both delighted and frustrated.

"We didn't go to Luton to make up the numbers," said Bogie. "We controlled the game for long periods and could easily have come away with all three points.

"Luton created nothing in the first half and went route one in the second when they brought Shaw on at half-time. .

"At 2-1 up we were denied a stonewall penalty for a foul on Odubade and had another good shout for a penalty after a foul on Magnay.

"It was a great performance. Luton were fortunate to get a point and we now have to back this up at home to Mansfield Town on Tuesday."

Luton's only first half threat came in the second minute when JJ O'Donnell's long range shot was saved by Adam Bartlett.

Gateshead were then ahead on 25 minutes when former Luton loanee Hatch headed home Josh Gillies' corner.



GOOD START: Yemi Odubade put Gateshead 2-0 up yesterday. Inset: Boss Ian Bogie

Micky Cummins' through ball then split the home defence and the fleet-footed Odubade raced clear to shoot past Mark Tyler. It was now all Gateshead and Gillies and

Hatch both had chances to make it three before the break.

Luton, however, were back in it when Shaw converted Fleetwood's low cross, and then level through Fleetwood who pounced on to Scott Rendell's misplaced header.

Cummins made a great chance to

restore the Heed's lead and Hatch's header from Marwood's 88th minute corner clipped the bar as both sides had to settle for an opening day draw.

GATESHEAD: Bartlett, Magnay, Bush, Chandler, Curtis, Clark, Gillies (Marwood 67), Turnbull, Hatch, Odubade (Fisher 75), Cummins (Boyle 77)
Not used: Nixon (gk), Wilson