



WREXHAM 2 LUTON 0

Bishop 21, Hunt 57

"Theo earned his chance. He was great. He runs around, is full of energy and takes a man on. We are onto a winner."

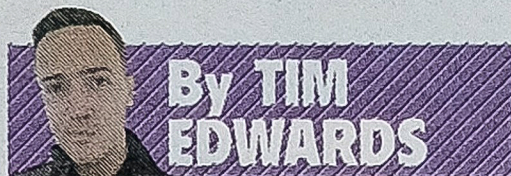
ANDY MORRELL,
Wrexham manager

"We've been rock solid in defence but we haven't defended two crosses anywhere near well enough. The best team won."

JOHN STILL,
Luton manager

HATTERS SENT MAD BY DEBUT MAN THEO Dragons down Luton

13/14



By TIM
EDWARDS

HE HAS won the seal of approval of a double European Cup winner and been touted for the top, yet Wrexham's new hero Theo Bailey-Jones has only played 72 minutes of first team football.

But it was some first team debut for the 19-year-old who was handed a six-month deal in the summer after impressing Wrexham youth team coach, former Liverpool and Wales icon Joey Jones.

He is only being paid "buttons" at the Racecourse Ground but he proved to be Luton Town's undoing as he terrorised their defence in front of the BT Sport cameras on Friday the 13th.

He was involved in the build-up which led to the Welsh side's opening goal, stepping aside for Neil Ashton to provide the searing cross for Andy Bishop to expertly volley home his first goal for the club.

Shot-shy Luton, breached for the first time in 408 minutes, played on the fact Wrexham had previously failed to keep a clean sheet this season and Mark Cullen could have levelled for the Hatters shortly before the break had he not directed his shot from 12 yards straight at Red Dragons stopper Joslain Mayebi.

Cullen was guilty of wasting another decent chance at the start of the second half before Wrexham's Joe Clarke glided a header onto the base of Mark Tyler's post.



DEBUT DELIGHT:
Theo Bailey-Jones
takes on Luton
defender Jake
Howells
PICTURES: Media Image

John Still's men – who have now only scored in one of their previous five matches – were made to pay shortly before the hour when Johnny Hunt headed in from close range after Brett Ormerod headed Bailey-Jones' inch-perfect cross back across goal.

Bailey-Jones received a standing ovation from the home fans when he was replaced by fellow jet-heeled wide-man Adrian Cieslewicz.

"He's got the biggest smile in football", said Wrexham boss Morrell of the former Manchester City and Crewe Alexandra starlet. "He's on a six-month contract on buttons but we've won the lottery with him."

"Theo was the best trainer on Monday and he scored twice in the reserves on Tuesday, so he earned his chance."

"He was great. He runs around, is full of energy and takes a man on. He's got a chance."

Bailey-Jones' composure and poise on the ball reminds Morrell of his former team-mate Carlos Edwards, the Trinidad & Tobago international who enjoyed a spell at Luton, then in the Championship, before going on to ply his trade for Sunderland in the Premier League.

"One of the goals he scored on Tuesday was exactly like one Carlos scored for us – cutting in, gliding past people and putting it into the bottom corner", added Wrexham's sometime player-boss.

"He listens and wants to learn. We are onto a winner."

Bailey-Jones' reception upon departing the pitch was in stark contrast to the early bath exit of Luton replacement Alex Wall – the striker catching Ashton with a high boot before a crude stamp on the floored Reds left-back.

Town boss Still refused to condemn Wall but will surely question the striker's temperament upon watching the flashpoint back.

"He was sent off for dangerous or serious foul play for a high boot," said Still, who lamented his team's poor showing.

MATCH STATS

WREXHAM v LUTON

9	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
4	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
5	CORNERS	5
1	OFFSIDE	3
6	FOULS CONCEDED	12
1	YELLOW CARDS	3
0	RED CARDS	1

STAR MAN: Theo Bailey-Jones
(Wrexham)
ATT: 3, 122

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Darren Handley 8/10

WREXHAM: (4-3-3): Mayebi 6; Tomassen 7, S Wright 6 (N'tame 46, 7), Artell 7, Ashton 7; Clarke 7, Harris 8, Hunt 7; Bailey-Jones, 9 (Cieslewicz 72, 6); Bishop 7, Ormerod 6. Subs not used: Coughlin, Morrell, Carrington.
LUTON: (4-4-2): Tyler 6, Henry 6, Griffiths 6, McNulty 7, Parry 7; Whalley 6 (Lawless 61, 6) Smith 6, Guttridge 6, Howells 6 (Gray 72, 6); Benson 7, Cullen 6 (Wall 61, 4). Subs not used: Justham, Stevenson

"The referee has said when he (Wall) has come down the fella (Ashton) turned over with his leg and he couldn't get out of the way."

"I don't necessarily attach any blame to Alex. He said he never saw the player but we'll have a look back at it."

Despite the sending off Still admitted his side were second best throughout, adding: "I'm disappointed as we haven't played well. Our form has

been good in tough games against what people might class as the better sides in the league."

"We've been rock solid in defence but we haven't defended two crosses anywhere near well enough."

"They are the small margins games are won and lost on."

STRIKER POSE: Scorer Andy Bishop is mobbed by Jay Harris