

Tamworth give fans reason to smile - even in defeat

Skrill Premier

By CHRIS PHILPOTTS

Sports Reporter

**TAMWORTH 3
LUTON TOWN 4**

13/14

IT is difficult to be pleased with a defeat but it is hard to see how anyone at the game can be anything but that after the 90 minutes the Lambs served up on Saturday.

Pride, passion, commitment, skill, flair, Tamworth showed it all, they also showed that with a performance like that in them, a placing of one above the drop zone is simply not acceptable.

Too many times in the past Tamworth have saved their big performances for the likes of Luton, only to fall short against lesser opposition later on down the line.

It is a frustrating fact of being a Lambs fan of late - but that frustration was put in the background for 90 minutes at the weekend.

That is because there was simply too much to enjoy out on the pitch, two teams going goal for goal in a fantastic advert for Conference Football.

In what turned out to be an even affair, it was the home side who struck first, as in just the 12th minute Duane Courtney tapped home from six-yards out.

That lead was to last just 18 minutes as Jonathan Smith brought the sides level with a thunderous strike from fully 30-yards out.

Cameron Belford was helpless to stop it and he was

HOW THEY STAND

Skrill Premier				
	P	W	L	Pts
Cambridge	16	11	0	38
Kidderminster ...	16	10	4	32
Luton	16	8	2	30
Braintree	16	8	4	28
Grimsby	16	8	5	27
Salisbury	16	8	5	27
Nuneaton	16	7	4	26
Barnet	16	6	3	25
Welling	16	7	5	25
Gateshead	16	8	7	25
Halifax	16	7	5	25
Alfreton	16	8	7	25
Lincoln City	16	6	6	22
Wrexham	16	5	7	19
Macclesfield	16	5	7	19
Forest Green	16	5	8	18
Southport	16	5	8	18
Dartford	16	5	8	18
Hereford	16	4	7	17
Tamworth	16	4	8	16
Woking	16	3	8	14
Chester FC	16	3	9	13
Aldershot	16	6	6	12
Hyde	16	0	14	2

Tamworth players celebrate Duane Courtney's goal.

helpless to stop the Hatters from going ahead in similar circumstances four minutes before the break.

This time it was Andy Parry with the strike, hit from more of an angle than that of Smith, but the end result was the same as the ball rocketed into the back of the net.

The Lambs would have been hoping to hit back early in the second-half, but instead it was the visitors who stretched their lead just 51 seconds after the restart.

Paul Benson grabbed the goal, nodding past Belford from a tight angle while under pressure.

The Lambs were shell shocked and found themselves 4-1 down nine minutes later when Benson was allowed too much time in the area, left unmarked to tap home a fine pull-back from strike partner Andre Gray.

The match looked sewn up at this stage but the Lambs came back with a vengeance, with Lateef Elford-Alliyu leading the fightback in the 64th minute.

The Lambs front-man won - and converted - a penalty after being brought down in the box by Scott Griffiths, leading to some nervy moments for the visitors.

Those nerves were pun-

ished 12 minutes later when Courtney grabbed his second of the game, somehow flicking the ball over his head in a crowded box and into the back of the net.

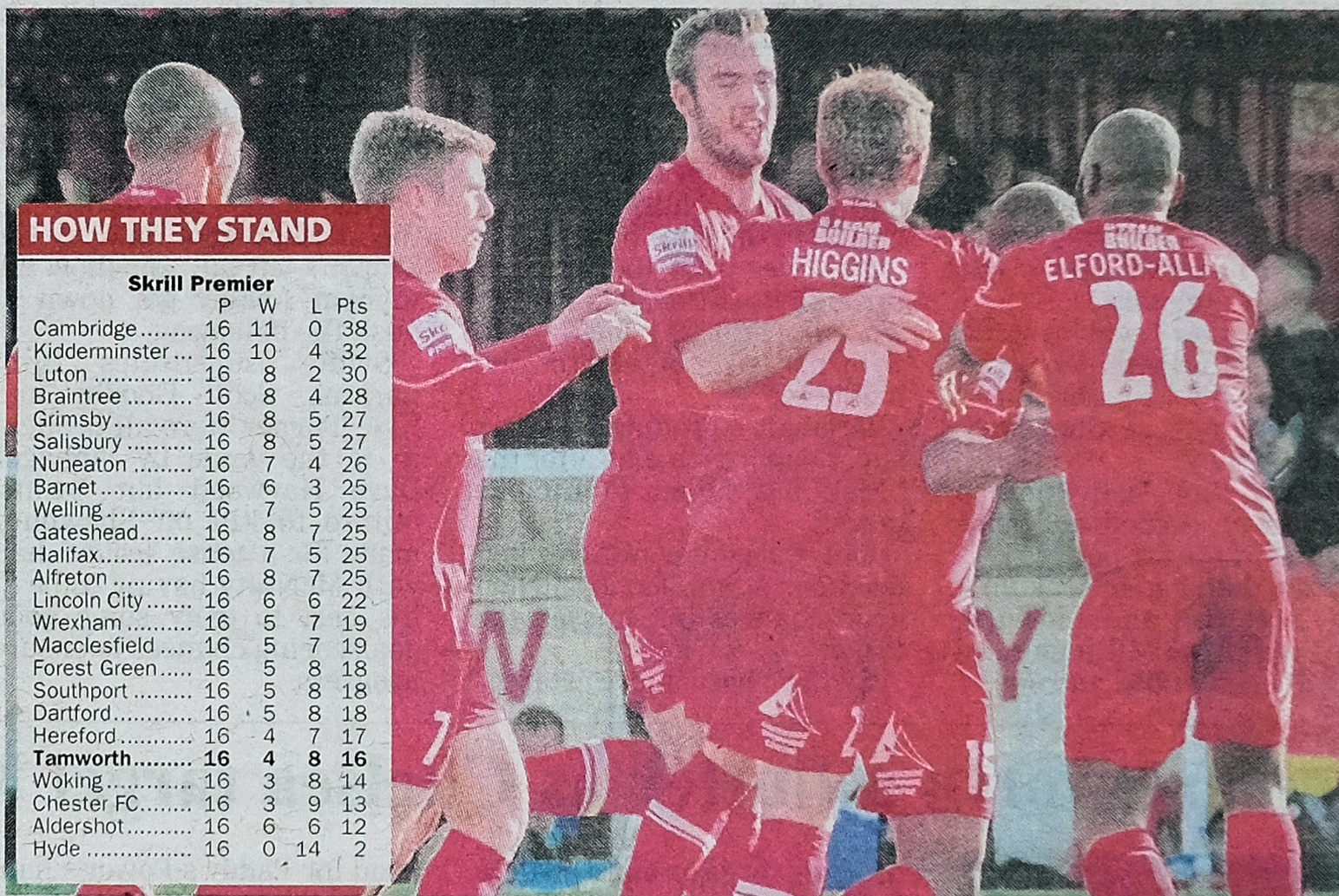
Despite piling on the pressure in the last ten minutes, the Lambs were unable to see their comeback complete.

TAMWORTH: Belford, Higgins, Richards-Everton, Courtney, Capaldi, Todd (Chadwick HT), Baker (Hildreth HT) Kerry, Wright (Richards 64), Elford-Alliyu, Peniket. Subs not used: Regan, Woolery.

LUTON TOWN: Tyler, Henry, McNulty, Griffiths, Lacey, Whalley, Smith, Parry, Guttridge (Lawless 71), Benson, Gray (Charles 87). Subs not used: Cullen, Justham, Robinson.

Attendance: 2066

Herald Star Man: Lateef-Elford Alliyu.



Picture: Dave Brown