

Mills content as Heed



SKRILL PREMIER

BY JEFF BOWRON

GATESHEAD ended a momentous week with a battling goalless draw against fallen giants Luton Town in atrocious conditions on Tyneside.

The Heed edged a game of few chances, but it wasn't until injury time that either keeper made a save, Town's Mark Tyler denying James Curtis a late winner.

By then an absorbing game had become a slog, a strong wind and driving rain making it increasingly inevitable that neither defence would be breached.

For Gateshead the draw ended a run of five straight wins, while promotion-chasing Luton stretched their unbeaten run to 10 games.

The week began with manager Gary Mills confirming he would be staying at Gateshead despite an approach from big-spending Forest Green and then being named The Skrill Premier Manager of the Month.

While disappointed not to record another win, Mills was happy with the performance of his side against Conference big-hitters Luton.

"We had four good chances to win the game but it wasn't to be," said Mills, "but if you can't win then you need to make sure you don't lose and we did that."

"Just one goal conceded in six games is excellent. Luton are a big club but we have more than matched them, and it was a good point in difficult conditions."

"It shows how far we have come in just a few weeks, and we proved again that whoever we play we are capable of getting a result against."

"Luton are third in the table and it was another good day for us - I am proud of the players."

With defences on top, chances were limited in a keenly-fought game between two sides sitting at the top of the Conference Premier form table.

Gateshead shaded it without finding the cutting edge to build on their famous 5-1 demolition of former top-flight club Luton at Carlisle's Brunton Park last season.

prove match for Luton

GATESHEAD 0 LUTON TOWN 0



Action from the stalemate between Gateshead and Luton Town at Gateshead International Stadium

by Luton man mountain Steve McNulty after Phil Turnbull's free-kick had dropped at the defender's feet in the box.

John Oster's clever through balls and measured passing and Turnbull's probing kept the Heed on the front foot as Luton sat off.

The Hatters fashioned one good opening in each half and both fell to

joint top scorer and experienced midfielder Luke Guttridge.

The 31-year-old pulled his shot wide on each occasion and Gateshead's luck was out when Jamie Chandler lobbed Tyler only for McNulty to clear.

Rob Ramshaw glanced a header wide from Craig Baxter's measured cross on the stroke of half-time, while on-loan Boro defender Lewis Sirrell

went close after the break. Sub James Brown failed to convert former Pools team-mate Colin Larkin's driven cross at the near post and then Curtis was denied at the death when he headed Oster's corner towards the far top corner.

Gateshead, with seven wins and just one defeat from their last nine games, will now look to cause an FA Cup upset

at League Two high-flyers United next weekend.

GATESHEAD: Bartlett, Baxter, Sirrell, Cha Magnay 75, Curtis, Clark, LARKIN, Turnbull (Boyes 67), Oster, Ramshaw (Brown 58), Sirrell, Cummings, Walker
LUTON TOWN: Tyler, Smith, McNULTY, H (Wall 83), Griffiths, Parry, Guttridge, Henry, Benson, Gray (Cullen 71), Lacey, Subs: (Ino Talvo, Jutham (gk), Stevenson
REF: Ross Joyce (Billingham) Attendant