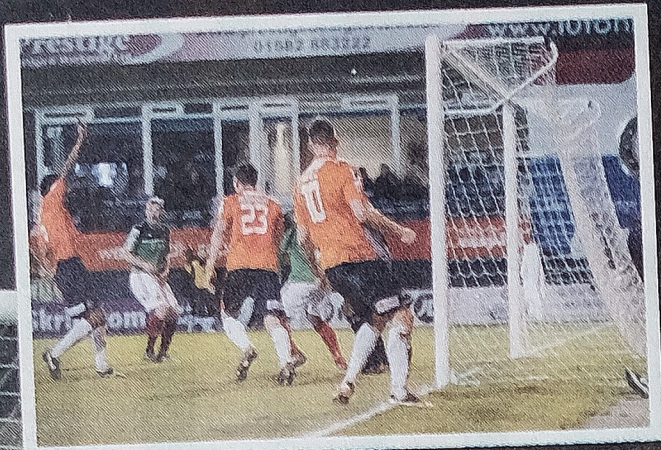




LUTON TOWN 2

Cullen 15, Ashton (og) 77

WREXHAM 0



A CULL-ING: Luton's Mark Cullen opens the scoring below and, inset, Neil Ashton's own goal secures the Hatters victory

PICTURES:
Gareth Owen



OUT WITH A WHIMPER

By Mark Wood

WREXHAM boss Andy Morrell blasted his side as the holders crashed out of the FA Trophy with a defeat at Luton Town.

Mark Cullen's header and a Neil Ashton own goal, either side of Wrexham midfielder Jay Harris's red card for two bookings, ended the Dragons' defence of their title and Morrell admitted they should have lost by more.

Morrell said: "We've gone out of the FA Trophy as holders with a whimper. We didn't turn up and it's hugely disappointing. We had a good team but were playing a good team, probably the toughest in the draw, but I played a strong team because we need to get back to winning ways.

"We weren't at it from the start and we were lucky to go in one behind. We gave it a bit of go in the second half and a bit more when we went down to 10 men but the second goal killed it.

"They had a lot of young players in their side but they came at us. When you play like we did you will get beaten by anybody, I don't care who you play. We got battered."

While The Red Dragons picked virtually a full-strength side, hosts Luton kept only one player from last week's 5-0 demolition of Alfreton.

They were still the dominant force though and went ahead on 15 minutes when Shaun Whalley's corner was met by Cullen and his looping header sailed over Andy Coughlin and into the net.

The Hatters didn't take their foot off the gas with their youngsters never overawed by the occasion, as Ian Rees, on his full debut, saw a close-range effort deflected on to the post and behind.

Cullen and Matt Robinson then went close, while West Ham loanee Pelly Ruddock fizzed an effort into the gloves of Coughlin.

After the break, Town thought they had gone 2-0 up, but Alex Wall was flagged offside after turning in Whalley's delivery.

Harris was then cautioned for bringing down Robinson inches outside the penalty area, and he

saw his afternoon ended just after the hour mark as he mis-timed a sliding challenge on Ruddock to earn a second booking.

Whalley skied over after a mazy run, while the Red Dragons only real attempt saw Andy Bishop head wide of the mark.

Luton got their crucial and richly deserved second on 77 minutes when another Whalley corner was turned past his own keeper by Ashton.

Anthony Charles headed off the line for Town late on, but they were deserving winners as boss John Still said: "I'm absolutely delighted, I've said all along I want to try and develop a young group of players here and that's what we're doing, I thought they were more than worthy of winning.

"One-nil at half time was an injustice, we were better than that and all over the pitch, we've done really well, it was a terrific performance."

MATCH STATS

LUTON v WREXHAM

5	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
7	SHOTS OFF TARGET	1
14	CORNERS	4
1	OFFSIDE	4
12	FOULS CONCEDED	8
1	YELLOW CARDS	2
0	RED CARDS	1

STAR MAN: Matt Robinson (Luton)

ATT: 1,617

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: Darren England 6/10

LUTON: (4-4-2): Justham 6; Longden 7, Howells 7, Charles 7, Davis 7, Rees 7, Robinson 8, Ruddock 8, Whalley 7; Wall 7 (Banton 6, 85), Cullen 7.
Subs not used: Smith, Amu, Chabata, King.
WREXHAM: (4-4-2): Coughlin 6; Wright 5, Ashton 6, Clarke 5, Clowes 5; Harris 5, Bishop 5, Keates 6 (Evans 76, 5), Hunt 5; (Morrell 71, 5), Anyinshah 5 (Ogleby 61, 5), Carrington 5.
Subs not used: Mayebi, Tomassen