



LUTON TOWN 7 HEREFORD UTD 0

Gray 12, 68, 82, Benson 49, Howells 56 (pen), Mpanzu 60, Lawless 90+1

13/4



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JOHN STILL,
Luton Town manager



"Did I see it coming? Yes, I did. There have been problems in the camp for a while that people just don't see on the outside."
MARTIN FOYLE,
Hereford United manager

IT'S SEVENTH HATTERS AS

HEAVEN FOR GRAY STRIKES

Luton extend lead at the top

By Bobby Hellard

VERDICT: Luton out-muscled Hereford and then out-classed them with free flowing football and a red hot Andre Gray. It's difficult to see anyone catching them.

FREE-SCORING Luton Town hit seven past sorry Hereford United to open up a nine-point gap at the top of the Skitl Premier.

The Hatters have now scored 11 goals in three games with eight of those coming from sizzling striker Andre Gray who bagged a second hat-trick in as many home games to delight the Kenilworth Road faithful.

"We work so hard with the ball in training," said boss John Still after seeing his side extend their unbeaten run to 22 games. "Touch, pass, move and it's great when I see it come off. It gives me a lot of pleasure."

"We make a lot of chances and at the moment Andre is right on top of it. Gray and Paul Benson are a handful for anyone. To be fair the whole of the front three were brilliant and Benson was the catalyst."

Now we've got Jon Shaw coming back, and Alex Lawless who came on at the end, fighting for a goal, so the options are fantastic."

"But if we're successful this year, it won't be me, or the players, or the supporters, or the ground staff, or the directors. It will be everybody."

Luton took the lead on 12 min-

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN: Alex Lawless rounds off the scoring with a late seventh while, inset top, Paul Benson bundles home and Andre Gray solutes his second goal, inset bottom.



utes having pressured Hereford high up the pitch. Luke Guttridge laid the ball off for Cameron McGeehan to drill in a shot from the edge of the area, and when keeper Daniel Lloyd-Weston failed to hold onto the ball, Gray fired in from close range.

The Bulls managed to see out the first-half keeping it to just 1-0, but the relentless battering from the Hatters had started to take its toll.

Just four minutes after the restart the resolve of Hereford had

all but gone. Benson nodded in from close range after McGeehan's header from a Jake Howells' corner had been saved.

McGeehan and new signing Polly Ruddock Mpanzu dominated the midfield with their all-action displays and the former won a penalty on 56 minutes.

Having been run ragged by Ruddock, Kingsley James brought him down in the box after some fast one-touch football from Luton. Howells dispatched the penalty with ease, placing the ball high

over Lloyd-Weston for a 3-0 lead, but the scoring was far from over as Luton started to go through the gears.

Guttridge, Benson and Ruddock combined beautifully, passing their way through Hereford with Mpanzu side-footing a shot in off the bar to extend the lead.

The statistics are looking fantastic for Still's men, no more so than for leading goalscorer Gray, who drove in his second and Luton's fifth off the post after Gut-

tridge had put the striker in with a lofted through ball. Gray then rounded off a lovely team move to secure his hat-trick and his eighth goal in three games with a clinical side foot from substitute Lawless' cross.

In the end Luton's ten men all wanted in on the act with Lawless having to fight off team-mate Shaw for the seventh goal in injury time. Lloyd-Weston produced a flying save, but could only parry Matt Robinson's free-kick back in front of goal where the Hatters substi-

tutes managed to bundle the ball over the line. This was the first game at Kenilworth Road for three weeks due to the heavy rainfall. The game was able to go ahead thanks in part to a newly purchased pitch cover.

Martin Foyle's men were out fought and out played as they suffered their heaviest league defeat ever.



MATCH STATS	
LUTON V HERFORD	
13 SHOTS ON TARGET	1
8 SHOTS OFF TARGET	8
4 CORNERS	4
0 OFFSIDE	0
8 FOULS CONCEIVED	11
2 YELLOW CARDS	2
0 RED CARDS	0
STAR MAN: Andre Gray (Luton)	
ATT: 7,111	
ENTERTAINMENT: *****	
REF RATING: Darren Hindley 7/10	

LUTON: (4-4-2) Tyler 6, Henry 7, Francis 7, McKeilly 8, Griffiths 7, Guttridge 7, McGeehan 8, Robinson 6, 6, Mpanzu 6, Howells 8, Lawless 76, 71, Benson 8 (Shaw 75, 6), Gray 9, Subs not used: Charles, Juddham.

HEREFORD: (4-3-3) Lloyd-Weston 5, Lindelof 6, McDonald 5, Graham 5, Bush 6, Collier 70, 6, James 4 (Hinde 58, 6), Brown 6, Edge 5, Walker 5, Shaw 5, Smith 62, 6, Rankine 5, Subs not used: Evans, Williams.

"If you want the honest truth, they're a million miles away from us," admitted Foyle.

"The gap between the top and bottom half of the Conference is just getting bigger and bigger - it's like the Premier League."

"I've been crying out to the chairman and board of directors to bring some players in over the past three or four weeks because we need a reshuffle."

"It's my biggest defeat by a million miles and it hurts. But did I see it coming? Yes, I did."

"There have been problems in the camp for a while that people don't see on the outside."

"Players can come up with all kinds of excuses but as a player I'd want to do much better than a lot of them did today."