

Drury's central to Hatters' bid for Cup success

ANDY Drury could provide a key component to Luton's attempts to clinch victory over Cambridge United in their FA Cup, third round tie tomorrow.

The experienced midfielder returned to the Hatters in the summer for a fee of £100,000 from Crawley following their return to the Football League, having left Kenilworth Road to join Ipswich Town for £150,000 in 2011.

And Drury (pictured right) has been in excellent form recently as John Still's side have maintained their push for back-to-back promotions, according to James Cunliffe, who reports on the club for *Luton on Sunday*.

He said: "When he came back it took him a while to get involved because he had a hand injury, but over the last month he has definitely come to the fore playing a central role where he used to be more of a wide man. He has been the stand-out guy."

Luton lie fourth in Sky Bet League Two, just two points off leaders Shrewsbury, and beat United 1-0 at the R Costings Abbey in September thanks to a late Mark Cullen goal.

But Cunliffe said while the Hatters' fortunes this season were not completely unexpected, he

felt fans had been more accepting now the club was back in the League.

He said: "It was quite telling that after the game they lost 3-0 at Morecambe, the fans stayed behind and cheered.

"The fans didn't enjoy losing in the Conference and they'd get on their backs, so there's been a big turnaround and there's more of a rapport between them and the players."

Recent clashes between the two sides have had plenty of spice given the relative proximity, their respective battles to get out of the Conference and of course, former Luton boss Richard Money being at United's helm.

Cunliffe felt the Hatters players would be well up for the game with a place in the fourth round at stake.

"When I spoke to Luke Rooney before the second-round re-

plays, he was obviously hoping Luton would win, but also that Cambridge would as well because it's more of a derby," he said.

"He didn't play in the last game at the Abbey, but all the players had said what a great atmosphere and big buzz there was about it."

