

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

CAMBRIDGE UTD 2 LUTON TOWN 1

Simpson 27, Donaldson 65

Harriman 74

Att: 7,063 Rating: ★★★ Ref: Tony Harrington 6/10

14/15 (CAC)

RICHARD WANTS A MONEY SPINNER

By Mike Simmonds

CAMBRIDGE boss Richard Money is eyeing up a bumper fourth-round tie after his side disposed of League Two rivals Luton Town.

Robbie Simpson gave the hosts the lead in the first half when he poked in after his penalty was initially saved.

Ryan Donaldson slotted in a second after the hour, but Hatters defender Michael Harriman pulled one back with a header.

However, Cambridge held on to progress into the fourth round for the first time since the 1999-2000 season, leaving Money delighted.

"The fourth round of the FA Cup gives us something to really look forward to," he said. "No pun intended but now we need the money tie.

"I'd like any of the big boys away from home. I think it's reached the stage that if we can get the important cup tie now then it will put this club in an incredibly important position financially.

"We've worked hard over the last 18 months to get it back stable. If we can get the £500,000 tie now it will be fantastic. That's what we want.

"It's a massive result for the football club, for players, supporters and the board."

The visitors went closest early on as Jonathan Smith fired wide on the run, while Mark Cullen drew a save from Chris Dunn at point blank range.

Ex-Hatter Greg Taylor had an effort that was blocked by Harriman, before the Hatters defender almost opened the scoring at the other end, as Dunn beat away his firm header.

The U's had the lead on 27 minutes though when Simpson's delightful through ball released Donaldson who was brought down by Mark Tyler for a penalty, with the keeper also booked.

Simpson stepped up only to see Tyler make a fine save, but the ball cannoned off the post and back into his path as the midfielder gleefully tucked into the net.

It looked like the game was up on 65 minutes when Donaldson broke from half way and, as Luton backed off, he drove into the box and clinically beat Tyler.

But the Hatters had a lifeline on 74 minutes when Andy Drury curled over a lovely cross and full back Harriman nodded home his first goal for the club.

Luton ramped up the pressure in the closing stages, with the excellent Harriman's low cross only just evading substitutes Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu and Charlie Walker at full stretch.

But, despite defeat, Hatters boss John Still thought his patched-up side, which included five changes, could have been in the hat had Drury not missed an open goal with the score at 1-0.

He added: "I thought it was a fantastic performance, second half, it was absolutely outstanding.

"If Drury scores we would have had the ascendancy and gone on, but he didn't and we didn't and I can't ask for more than we gave.

"We were a bit a patched up but gave a first-class performance because of illness, sickness and injury If you're going to go out, don't go out with a whimper and we didn't."

CAMBRIDGE: (4-4-2): Dunn 6, Tait 6, Nelson 7, Coulson 7, Taylor 6, Chadwick 7 (KaiKai 89), Hughes 6, Champion 6, Donaldson 8 (Dunk 80, 5) Simpson 7, Elliott 6 (Bird 84, 5)
Subs not used: Norris, Miller, Atkinson, Hurst
LUTON: (3-5-2): Tyler 6, Connolly 6 (Ruddock Mpanzu 60 6), Wilkinson 6, Franks 6, Harriman 8, Stevenson 5, Smith 6, Drury 6, Howells 6, Cullen 5 (Lafayette 60, 5), Miller 5 (Walker 65, 5)
Subs not used: Justham, Lacey, Rooney, Robinson



STAR MAN
RYAN DONALDSON
Cambridge

ALL SMILES: Ryan Donaldson celebrates after scoring Cambridge's second goal
PICTURE: Action Images