



LUTON TOWN 0 WYCOMBE 2

Thompson 51, Hayes 66

Att: 9,676 Rating: ★

Ref: Dean Whitestone 7/10

15/16

MAKING HAYES:
Wycombe striker
Paul Hayes nets
their second goal

PICTURES:
Gareth Owen



WYCOMBE KICK THEIR HOODOO

By Mike Simmonds

WYCOMBE boss Gareth Ainsworth offered a tongue-in-cheek thank you to Sky Sports after his side secured victory at managerless Luton Town.

The broadcaster had published a list of Football League clubs' records on Boxing Day, with the Chairboys having the lowest win percentage, earning a mere four triumphs from 20 games played.

However, they were always in control at Kenilworth Road and comfortably secured a fifth victory thanks to second-half goals from Garry Thompson and Paul Hayes.

Ainsworth said: "I trusted the boys, gave them Friday off and I didn't make that public as we had a horrendous record on Boxing Day – thank you for the Sky stats that came up. So hopefully that goes a little bit towards changing that as we put everything in."

"We know Luton are a big club, they're a great club and are in a little bit of disarray at the moment, but we can't feel sorry for people.



BEST FOOT FORWARD:
Wycombe's Joe Jacobson and Luton's Alex Lawless do battle

"I said to the boys 'We can impose ourselves on this team early on, because they've been through a lot of trauma in the last few weeks'."

Early on, Cameron McGeehan shot over for the hosts, before Wycombe settled by far the better, Michael Harriman and Sam Wood sending efforts wide of Mark Tyler's goal.

Luton didn't create anything meaningful in the opening forays, with Paul Benson unable to turn Craig Mackail-Smith's cross-shot in, while the same combination saw Benson head wide.

The first shot on target came from Wanderers as Hayes tested Tyler at his near post, while he was denied the opener by a superb

block from Sean Long after Jason McCarthy's low cross.

The resulting corner was volleyed wide by Anthony Stewart but Wycombe were in front after 50 minutes when Harriman's cross wasn't cleared by Scott Cuthbert and Thompson nipped in to score.

Olly Lee shot over on the half volley for Luton, although Wycombe had a second on 66 minutes as Thompson strode down the right and his inch-perfect cross was headed in by the unmarked Hayes.

Mackail-Smith and Josh McQuoid threatened a consolation, but Luton were booed off the pitch.

Caretaker boss Andy Awford said: "We're very disappointed, of

course we are, you never like getting beat, especially at home and on Boxing Day with a big crowd inside.

"Could we have played better? Yes, I think we can. We need to do better. Were we in the game for long periods? I think we were, but the overall feeling at the moment is one of disappointment.

"We had lost four on the spin before winning at Exeter and confidence was low. It wasn't to be, we didn't test their goalkeeper enough, we didn't work him enough.

"They had better opportunities without carving us open and unfortunately individual errors cost you as they have all season.

"But we're not going to blame one person for a defeat, we win as a team like we did last week and we lose as a team."

STAR MAN
MICHAEL HARRIMAN
Wycombe

LUTON: (4-2-3-1): Tyler 5, Long 6, Howells 5, Cuthbert 5, Okuonghae 4, Lawless 5 (Gultridge 70 5), Lee 5, Mackail-Smith 5, McGeehan 5, Green 5 (Marriott 70 5) Benson 5 (McQuoid 70 5)
Subs not used: Justham, Musonda, Smith, Griffiths
WYCOMBE: (4-4-2): Ingram 6, McCarthy 7, Stewart 7, Pierre 7, Jacobson 7, Harriman 8, Bloomfield 7 (McGinn 90 N/A), O'Brien 6, Wood 6, Thompson 8, Hayes 7 (Kretschmar 84 5) Subs not used: Jombati, Amadi-Holloway, Rowe, Lunch, Udumaga