

Luton 2, Sunderland 1

LUTON, teeming with confidence after taking a 2-0 lead before half-time, were ultimately stretched by a Sunderland side whose relegation concerns are almost as pressing.

In fact, five players were booked, although it was not a dirty game. Chances abounded at either end, beginning with Walker's angled drive which Sealey held well. Luton, though, took a hold on the game in mid-field through Nicholas and Hill and opened the scoring in the 21st minute. Preece's corner cleared a posse of players at the near post and Harford, who won most things that came his way, headed in.

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Hill made it 2-0 eight minutes later when Nwajiobi's shot was semi-cleared. Taking the ball on the volley with his right foot, Hill angled his shot neatly past Turner.

From the outset of the second half Sunderland, with nothing to lose, surged forward. Their approach paid off when Bennett, as determined as anyone and more athletic than most, latched onto Nicholas's sluggish back pass and attempted to round Sealey. His first effort was blocked, but determination carried him through.