

Dry spell ends

02/03

Luton 2 Bristol City 2

STEVE Howard ended his five-match drought with both goals as Luton put a dent in Bristol City's promotion drive after a 2-2 draw.

Howard headed his 18th of the season after only 59 seconds from Matthew Spring's cross.

City drew level from Brian Tinnion's 65th minute penalty and Lee Peacock put them ahead 10 minutes later with a low right foot shot before Howard headed the equaliser six minutes from time.

Howard might have had a hat-trick but failed to get enough power on another header.

Robert Beckwith, making his Luton debut after first-choice goalkeeper Mark Ovendale was injured in the warm-up, made a superb save from Peacock, and the 18-year-old made an even better second half save to turn aside an Aaron Brown piledriver.

Luton boss Joe Kinnear and Bristol City manager Danny Wilson were both happy to share the spoils after the high-tempo encounter at Kenilworth Road.

Both sides could have secured victory after being in front but settled for a point apiece, while Luton had Peter Holmes sent off in the 65th minute for a needless foul on Brown which Kinnear described as "sheer stupidity" on the player's behalf.

Wilson said: "It's disappointing not to win after getting your noses in front but then being unable to keep the lead. But it was a hard-fought point and as results elsewhere have been decent to us I am glad of it."

"In the first half we came second in the physical battle when Luton didn't allow us to play our football. Luton are a good side but we were better in the second half."

"All the teams in the top six are still looking at that second promotion place and I think it will go down to the wire."

Kinnear said: "I suppose the draw was about right but I am not pleased about the way we gave the goals away."

"The first was down to laziness, sheer stupidity and I've given Holmes a flea in his ear. For the second Alan Neilson has admitted it was totally his fault."

The bonus for Luton was the mature display by Beckwith on his debut.

"He has done exceptionally well," added Kinnear.