



Town Player Watch

It's a quiet
afternoon
for Ahmet

AHMET Brkovic has been Mike Newell's preferred left-sided midfielder since loan star Courtney Pitt finished his second month spell at Hatters back in October.

The Croat, who has yet to score this campaign, made his 18th start of the season for Luton at Kenilworth Road against Barnsley on Saturday. Here's how he fared...

- Minutes on pitch: 90
 - Passes to Luton: 12
 - Passes to Barnsley: 3
 - Pass completion rate: 80 per cent
 - Shots on target: 0
 - Shots off target: 0
 - Shots blocked: 1
 - Drubbles ball retained: 0
 - Drubbles ball lost: 2
 - Tackles won/interceptions: 8
 - Tackles lost: 1
 - Free-kicks won: 3
 - Free-kicks lost: 1
 - Headers won: 4
 - Headers lost: 3
 - Crosses: 2
 - Offsides: 2
- VERDICT:** Like many of his team-mates, Brkovic had a quiet first-half. He was almost anonymous on the left flank and rarely found himself involved in the action.
- Much of his time was devoted to shadowing the runs of his opponent Jacob Burns, who looked more likely to threaten.

The second period saw Brkovic link up with Sol Davis on more occasions as Town raided down the left flank straight after the interval.

But his relatively low number of passes, either to one of his own players or to the opposition, show how little he was in the game.

With Luton producing little build-up play in midfield, Brkovic also only managed to record two crosses from the entire 90 minute's action.

Luton 0-1		Kay
Alt Os Target 3	Beresford	Re
Alt Os Target 2	Coyne	Mel
2 Centers 3	Davis	Inlar
0 Offsets 12	Foley	O'Co
11 Points	Boyer	Aust
11 Broken	Roberts	Kay
Howard	Monsell	Can
Sent Off	Spring	Can
None	Brkave	Hay
	Forbes	Bets
	Howard	Wall
		Warr
		Warr
		Warr



JUST OUT OF REACH: Adrian Forbes looks on as Barnet's Craig Ireland stops Steve Howard reaching Sol Davis' dangerous left-wing cross

Tykes breach fortress

HATTERS 0 BARNSELEY 1
LUTON TOWN slipped down a place to seventh in the Division Two table after suffering only their second defeat of the season at Kenilworth Road.

A last-minute winner from Anthony Kay was enough to give Barnsley a 1-0 win and inflict Luton's first home loss since August 23 when they went down 2-1 to Grimsby.

Hatters boss Mike Newell had talked of his aim of frightening visitors by turning the Kenny into a fortress.

But it was the Yorkshire Tykes who battered down the Town defences and stole all three points.

Shot-shy Hatters recorded only two efforts on goal on Saturday compared to Barnsley's seven and the visitors racked up 13 efforts in all and also forced 10 corners.

The decisive strike came after Town keeper Marlon Beresford could only half-punch a Steve Carson corner and Kay was on hand to smash home with his left foot from two yards.

It was tough on Dyer, who had

It was tough on Beresford who had

First home loss for four months

not put a foot wrong before that and had kept Luton in the game with several fine stops, the best a flying fingertip save from substitute Paul Warhurst's 25-yard piledriver in the 87th minute.

Hatters were unchanged from the side that beat Blackpool 1-0 last weekend. But they displayed none of the cohesion shown in the Bloomfield Road encounter.

Barnsley were in control from the off and Carson should have scored in the 10th minute. Steve Hayward's free-kick found the winger completely unmarked just eight yards out, but Carson could only volley at Emmerson Boyce and watch as the ball looped past the post for a corner.

Jonathan Walters then latched on to a slip by Boyce four minutes later and produced a delicate left-footed chip that Beresford did well to turn over.

goal when Lee Mansell hit a daisy-cutter at Ilic from 25-yards. Steve Robinson came close three minutes later when he saw his curling 25-yard free-kick clip the top of the Barnsley bar.

On the stroke of half-time Beresford again had to be alert to save Kevin Betsy's firm shot from the edge of the penalty area after good work by Kay.

Hatters livened up after the interval and the crowd thought Luton had gone ahead six minutes into the second half.

Sol Davis sent in a delightful cross and after Howard missed the header, Mansell could only stab the ball into the side netting at the far post.

Luton's only other attempt on target came just before the hour when Howard's header from Mansell's right-wing cross was comfortably gathered by Ilic. But Barnsley continued to threaten before and after that with Craig Ireland, Betsy and Hayward all going close.

Three minutes from time, Beresford's flying save from Warhurst looked to have earned Hatters a point before Kay stole in for his side's last gasp winner.

STAR HATTER: Chris Coyne. The Town skipper was strong in the air and quick in the tackle.

NEWELL'S VERDICT



"The result is always the important thing and if you don't play well it's difficult to get the result you want.

"It was always going to be a tight one, but I have to say they were a better side than I saw at Barnsley on Tuesday night.

"Over the 90 minutes they deserved the win. We

didn't cause them any problems really in the first-half.

"We wanted people to get forward more and get behind them and they did that in the second-half. We had more of the game than, but it wasn't our day.

"We didn't deal with the cross for their goal and we paid for it."

Luton

6yd	6	11
18yd	25	17
Outside	3	6

Barnsley

6yd	6	11
18yd	25	17
Outside	3	6

Where's Red For/Agt

6yd	6	11
18yd	25	17
Outside	3	6

When Scored For/Agt

6yd	6	11
18yd	25	17
Outside	3	6

Luton Town's Scorers

Scorer	Goals
Adrian Forbes	1
Gary McSheffrey	1
Steve Howard	1
Tony Turner	1
Steve Robinson	1
Kevin Foley	1
Russell Bennett	1
Malcolm Marshall	1
Chris Kelly	1
Matthew Lloyd	1
Kevin Nichols	1
David Boyles	1
Alan Nielsen	1
Eric Shawcross	1
Michael Leese	1
Country Pitz	1
Pete Hild	1
Matthew Spring	1
Immerman Bayle	1

Seasonal Progress Chart

Last 6 Matches

Opposition	H/A	Score
Barnsley	H	0-1
Blackpool	A	1-0
Chesterfield	H	1-0
Sheff Wed	A	0-0
Wrexham	H	3-2
Bristol City	A	1-1

Swings

Won when behind	3
Drawn when behind	2
Lost when ahead	2
Set Piece Goals	4
Scored from Corners	4
Scored from Free Kicks	3
Conceded from Corners	4
Conceded from Free Kicks	3

How Scored For/Agt

Shots	19	12
Headers	10	10
Volleys	2	6
Penalties	2	6
Free Kicks	0	1
Own Goals	1	0

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals Scored	2
Goals Conceded	7
Points won	2
Points lost	8

Fouls & Offsides

Avg foul/game	13.09
2 Div Rating	15
Avg Offside/game	5.09
2 Div Rating	2.8

Top Scorers in each Category

Category	Player	Goals
Headed Goals	Howard	2
Volleyed shots	Perrett	2
Penalties scored	McSheffrey	1
2 scored 1st Goal	McSheffrey	1
Shots in 6-8 yds	Forbes	2
Goals in last 10 mins	Forbes	2

Attendance Figures

Highest Attendance	8,339
Lowest Attendance	5,902
Avg Attendance	5,957

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