

Hart begins Oakwell career with a point

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Barnsley o Luton o

PAUL Hart had to settle for a point in his first game as Barnsley manager following the goalless draw with Luton.

Luton created most of the chances with Steve Howard and Kevin Nicholls both hitting the woodwork in the first half.

Goalkeeper Marlon Beresford saved from Howard, while Emmerson Boyce fired over when well placed.

Barnsley strikers Michael Boulding and Daniel Nardiello had efforts cleared off the line by Boyce and Keith Keane respectively.

Boulding also went close with a header which forced a fine save from Morten Hyltdgaard, while Mark Stallard had a goalbound shot blocked.

Howard could have snatched victory for Luton in the last minute, but his header was hacked away by Steve Hayward.

Hart was proud of his team's efforts after he took over the reigns of the Tykes from Gudjon Thordarson in midweek.

"I am delighted with the start we've made considering we have got so many injuries," said Hart.

"The commitment was terrific and we

played some decent stuff. You have to give the players an awful lot of credit.

"There were chances at both ends and a draw was probably a fair result. The players were receptive and willing to have a go at what I believe in. Hopefully we can improve."

Hart singled out youngster Robbie Williams, making his first start of the season, for special praise.

"He did very well — I thought he was excellent," said Hart.

Hart has revealed he will wait to see some of his injured players in action before deciding on how to strengthen.

"Half the team is on the treatment table at the moment, so it's difficult to make a proper assessment," he added.

"I need an assistant but we'll see how things develop."

Luton manager Mike Newell, on the other hand, was not content with a point.

He said: "The lads are disappointed because the game was there for the taking and we had enough chances.

"We started the second half very poorly and didn't get playing again until the last 15 minutes.

"You're always happy with a clean sheet, but we felt we could go on and win the game.

"Barnsley had a number of injuries and we'll probably never have a better



Barnsley's NEIL AUSTIN tackles Luton Town's PETER HOLMES

chance of beating them."

Newell was disappointed to see Sol Davis pick up a booking which means that he now faces a ban and added: "It's frustrating because we don't have a lot of players."

But despite his discontent over the final score, Newell singled out praise for Keane who put in a committed performance.

"He's done well again and we're very pleased with him," Newell continued.