



Determined: Luton Town goal hero Ahmet Brkovic pressures Hartlepool's Eifion Williams



Neat touch: Kevin Nicholls shows his skills

Newell inspires sixth home win



LUTON TOWN3
Howard (36), Brkovic (51),
McSheffrey (84)

HARTLEPOOL UNITED....0

BY PAUL NAYLOR

LEAGUE ONE leaders Luton Town continued their march at the top of the table with their sixth victory from six at Kenilworth road.

Goals from Steve Howard, Ahmet Brkovic and Gary McSheffrey gave the Hatters the points against Hartlepool. But the home side were forced to

work hard against a lively looking Pools team, who went close on a number of occasions in a strong first-half performance.

Alan Pouton, Eifion Williams and Joel Porter all went close for Hartlepool in an excellent five minute spell for the away side. Williams should have scored in the 34th minute when Dino Seremet misjudged a long throw, but the striker some how managed to place the ball wide from 15 yards when faced with an open goal.

Instead it was Luton who took the lead against the run of play when Howard headed in Steve Robinson's well delivered corner for his sixth goal of the season in the 36th minute.

Brkovic made it 2-0 in the 51st minute, firing home after Rowan Vine's initial shot had been well blocked.

Substitute McSheffrey sealed the win six minutes from time,

running through the Pools defence before slotting home.

Luton boss Mike Newell praised his players for responding to a half-time ear-bashing to beat his former club Hartlepool.

Newell said: "What was said in the dressing room stays in the dressing room, but we weren't happy at all with our first-half performance so you can imagine what it was like.

"But the players responded well after the break and gave us everything we asked of them.

"Hartlepool were the better team in the first-half but we were much better in the second and we created some good chances.

"Things will get harder and harder for us but if we can continue like we did in the second-half we will have a chance."

Pools boss Neale Cooper said: "I thought we had eight good

LUTON	HARTLEPOOL	
47	Possession %	53
6	Corners	8
6	Offsides	3
15	Fouls	8
2	Yellows	1
0	Reds	0
7	Shots On	8
10	Shots Off	10
0	Hit Woodwork	0

LUTON: Seremet 6, Keane 6, Coyne 8, Davies 8, Davis 6, Brkovic 7 (O'Leary 87), Nicholls 7, Robinson 8, Underwood 7, Vine 7 (McSheffrey 76), Howard 7 (Showunmi 88).

HARTLEPOOL: Provett 6, Barron 6, Tinkler 6, Nelson 6, Robson 6, Humphreys 7, Strachan 6, Pouton 6, Williams 5, Boyd 6, Porter 6.

chances in the first-half but we only hit the target twice and that's not good enough at this level.

"We played some good stuff in the first-half, but they were more aggressive and you need to have that aggressive streak in your game to be successful."