

Take your hat off to Showunmi

Chesterfield 0
Luton 1

ENOCH Showunmi delivered a Boxing Day knockout blow to Chesterfield with a dramatic late winner in Luton's 1-0 victory at Saltergate.

The Nigeria international pounced three minutes from time to strengthen Town's grip on League One — and wreck the Spireites' unbeaten home record.

Showunmi had earlier been denied twice by home keeper Carl Muggleton, who also kept out efforts from Ahmet Brkovic and Calvin Andrew.

But Mike Newell's men claimed a deserved win when Showunmi nodded Peter Holmes' mis-hit volley past Muggleton from just six yards.

Chesterfield rarely threatened Marlon Beresford in the visitors' goal but came closest in the 55th minute when Derek Niven flashed a low drive inches wide.

Four minutes later Muggleton dived bravely at the feet of Showunmi to keep the scores level, then brilliantly tipped over a pile-driver from the striker with a quarter-of-an-hour to go.

With the clock ticking down, Muggleton also beat away a towering header from 18-year-old striker Andrew.

But the Hatters were well worth the victory and Showunmi's goal maintained their four-point lead at the top of the division.

Chesterfield manager Roy McFarland heaped praise on Luton after they had ended his side's unbeaten home record.

McFarland said: "Luton are a very good team. I can see them going up automatically and I will be bold enough to say they are streets ahead of anyone we have played this season.

"I wouldn't say they gave us a lesson in football but they certainly gave us a lesson in how to win a game.

"They are strong in all departments, look very good defensively and are miles in front of anyone else in this division.

"We rode our luck at times. We were under the cosh but defended quite well



ENOCH SHOWUNMI

and hoped to pinch a point. That would have been a great result for us but it wasn't to be."

Luton manager Newell said: "I'm absolutely delighted. We would have taken a point before the game.

"This is a difficult place to come to as results here show. But we said that if we want to achieve anything we must compete and win at places like this and we did that. We competed but also played some good football.

"We said it was only fair to give lads like Showunmi a chance and we are delighted with the effort of all the players.

"We've now got 51 points and at the start of the season if I had been offered that by Christmas of course I would have taken it. We are only halfway through the season and haven't achieved anything yet but we are well on the way."