

Hatters lead evaporates



STEVE HOWARD

Luton 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1

LUTON let two points slip in a 1-1 draw against in-form Sheffield Wednesday which saw their lead at the top of League One cut to goal difference.

The hosts were forced to come from behind after conceding the softest of goals on the stroke of half time.

There seemed to be no danger as Curtis Davies signalled goalkeeper Marlon Beresford to collect a loose ball.

But he hesitated and Kenwyne Jones took advantage to knock the ball into the empty net.

However, Luton were level within seconds of the restart when Steve Robinson hit the crossbar from long-range.

Ahmet Brkovic knocked the rebound against goal and Steve Howard headed into the empty net, but neither side proved capable of conjuring a winner.

Luton boss Mike Newell insisted his players would not be throwing away their title challenge after being held at home for the second time in five days.

Newell said: "I would have taken that if you'd asked me at the start of the season but you don't win anything for being top in January — it's

May that counts.

"There will be a lot of twists and turns to come before then but our lads have got a sniff of what they can achieve and they won't be letting it get away.

"There are a lot of games to come but we've got grit in our side and we're not too disappointed by the last two results."

Newell added: "We gifted them a goal and it's always disappointing when it ends up costing you points, but the lads got themselves back into the game and got something out of it."

Owls boss Paul Sturrock was also satisfied with the outcome.

He said: "It's a difficult place to come to because Luton have made Kenilworth Road a fortress with the style of play they've built up over the last two or three years.

"Their players all know each other and they are a good side who will be promoted this year. We had a poor first half and I told the lads that, but we were much better in the second half.

"We had chances to win it, but so did Luton and I think that was probably a fair result."

The Scot added: "As a team, we looked much better in the second half and maybe we're now starting to see definite belief from the players."

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