

Bez's top man!

COLCHESTER 0 HATTERS 0

GOALKEEPER Marlon Beresford did his bit to prove there would be more than one 'Bez' basking in the lime-light at the weekend.

While most of the nation's television watchers witnessed former Happy Mondays party man Bez scooping the Celebrity Big Brother top spot, Luton fans were more impressed by the antics of their own Bez as Hatters earned a point at Layer Road.

The experienced 35-year-old produced two outstanding second-half saves to keep out a battling Colchester side. And the result moved Luton a point clear of Hull at the top of the League One table after the Tigers lost 1-0 at Doncaster with former Hatter Michael McIndoe hitting the winner.

Saturday's result also continued Beresford's incredible league record for Luton. The stopper has now only lost twice in the league with Hatters in 32 appearances. The Lincoln-born number one told The News-Gazette: "I don't like to lose matches. I've played 30 or 40 odd league games here now and only been on the losing side twice."

"I know some people can moan about draws from time to time, but I see it as not being beaten. I know I've played in cup defeats for Luton, but Barnsley last season and Brentford



MAR-VELLOUS: Marlon Beresford sets himself as Colchester's Greg Halford volleys towards goal.

this season are the only league games I've lost and they stick in your mind.

"Some people argue it's better to lose and win rather than drawing a lot of games, but I'd rather not lose and I think the fact that we haven't lost many games is why we're in the position we're in at the moment."

Beresford has been helped by a back four that has remained largely unchanged all season in Kevin Foley, Chris Coyne, Curtis Davies and Sol Davis. Bez said: "We had a run of draws over Christmas that some saw as a bit of blip, although we didn't, but the lads are back to their best again now."

"It's nice to have a settled back four so you get used to each other, but even the lads who have come in have done really well. Alan Neilson was superb when he came back after a long time out the other week and Russ Perrett has done really well.

"It's nice to know that you've got lads who can come in when you need them."

On his Saturday performance, Beresford added: "I wouldn't get too carried away about it. I made a couple of routine stops, but we got a point and that's

the main thing. It was especially nice to get it with Hull slipping up and you never know how vital that point could be at the end of the season."

Hatters welcomed back Sol Davis after suspension to replace Alan Neilson at left-back while Keith Keane stepped in for the injured Ahmet Brkovic. And Keane had the first effort of note when he headed at Aidan Davison from 10 yards in the 24th minute.

Paul Underwood limped off in the 29th minute to be replaced by Peter Holmes before Beresford held Joe Keith's 25-yarder after half-an-hour.

Steve Howard put efforts off target either side of the break, but U's had the best chances in the second-half when Beresford blocked Neil Danns' six-yard shot in the 67th minute and then palmed aside Kevin Watson's low drive from 12 yards in the final minute.

MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT



"IT WAS a difficult game and you have to give Colchester credit because they came at us and played some decent stuff at times.

"I'm not too unhappy with the point because Marlon made an outstanding save at the death to keep us in it.

"It's not always going to be a win and the law of averages says you have to have a 0-0 draw at some

stage and this is only our second of the season.

"It was a difficult game against Colchester when we played them after Boxing Day when they were fresh and it was difficult again here.

"They have a threat up front and I'm surprised they've lost six games at home. I felt it was a good point against them last time and it's the same this time around."