

Hatters held but go top

Colchester 0
Luton 0

04/05

COLCHESTER produced a superb display in holding League One leaders Luton to a goalless draw at Layer Road.

United dominated the opening 45 minutes and created plenty of chances without finding the target.

Joe Keith had a powerful effort only to be denied by Marlon Beresford, while defender Sam Stockley had a cross-cum-shot tipped over by the Hatters goalkeeper.

Luton made even less of a contribution in the second half, although forward Steve Howard was always a menace as he sent a shot over the bar and had a header cleared at the near post.

It was Colchester, though, who had the best chance to take all three points when Neil Danns found himself in front of goal with only the keeper to beat, but Beresford made an important save to earn Luton a point.

Luton manager Mike Newell was more than happy that his side held on for a share of the spoils and moved a point clear at the top of League One.

Newell said: "Colchester are one of the best teams in this division. They passed the ball around well, had a big threat up front in Greg Halford and Craig Fagan and looked solid at the back. I'm surprised

they have lost six games at home and even more surprised at the teams they have lost to.

"I'm happy with the point and also the position we are in at the moment. Everything is still in our hands.

"We had players on the pitch who haven't been in the team for a while and they did well.

"We had a bit of good fortune with Hull losing. If Hull sustain their good form they deserve to win the title but I will be surprised if they do."

Colchester manager Phil Parkinson gave credit for the battling display shown by his side but was disappointed they had failed to score, and in doing so extended their run without a home win in the league to seven games.

Parkinson said: "I thought it was a very tight game and we had the better chances. Kevin Watson and Danns had opportunities to earn us three points but it wasn't to be.

"Luton are a top team and I think it's a credit to our defence that they held them off for the duration. They did a lot of hard work.

"Before the match we had a large piece of paper up in the dressing room and we wrote on it all the battles we had to fight in the match. We won most of them and if we had taken our chances we would have won."