

On-loan Vine bears fruit

Bradford 0
Luton 1

04/05

ROWAN Vine ended his nine game goal drought as Luton maintained their seven point lead at the top of League One with a 1-0 win at Bradford.

The on-loan Portsmouth striker struck the winner, his first goal since December 28, in the 10th minute to earn Luton their third successive victory.

But they had to endure a second half Bradford onslaught and were lucky to see Steven Schumacher's effort hit the woodwork with three minutes remaining.

Luton squandered a glorious chance to take a third minute lead. Ahmet Brkovic was brought down in the area by Bradford goalkeeper Paul Henderson, who redeemed himself by saving Kevin Nicholls' spot-kick.

Henderson came to his side's rescue again in the ninth minute when he denied Vine, who was put clean through.

However, from the resulting corner the on-loan forward drilled home his eighth goal of the campaign.

David Wetherall wasted a good opportunity to get Bradford back on level terms as he headed straight at

Marlon Beresford from six-yards in the 22nd minute.

Beresford also made fine saves from Andrew Cooke and Owen Morrison in the second half and Mark Bower headed wide as Bradford threw the kitchen sink at Luton.

Luton manager Mike Newell admitted his side were lucky to come away with a victory.

Newell praised his side's resolute defending.

He said: "We defended well because we weren't on our game and we rode our luck.

"I'm happy with all the players but I don't think we performed very well yet we got a result.

"It's nothing to do with lack of effort. You can't be on top of your game for 46 matches and sometimes you must grind out a result."

City manager Colin Todd insisted his side will keep battling for a play-off spot.

He said: "We matched Luton in the second half without getting the rewards.

"You need a little break and we earned the right to get one the way we played in the second half."