

Five star win!

HATTERS 5 BRISTOL CITY 0

TITLE-CHASING Hatters emphatically put their Port Vale horror show behind them by running up their biggest win of the season against hapless Bristol City.

Luton's trio of new contract stars marked year long extensions at Kenilworth Road by getting on the score-sheet as Ahmet Brkovic hit goals number 13 and 14 for the season, skipper Kevin Nicholls number 10 of the campaign and full-back Sol Davis only his second ever strike in league football.

And midfielder Peter Holmes – himself eager to secure his future at Hatters – capped a fine individual display with his first of the season.

The 24-year-old has been waiting patiently in the wings as the Town continue their relentless march towards Championship football next term.

But Saturday's fluent team display offered the former Sheffield Wednesday man a chance to remind everyone of his capabilities.

Holmes told The News-Gazette: "It felt good to be out there and it was a great win for us especially after what happened at Port Vale the week before.

"It's something that has been waiting to happen for a while, because we've been creating chances but not scoring them all, but that was one

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Picture: Joanna Cross

FLYING HIGH: 14-goal midfielder Ahmet Brkovic celebrates the first of his brace against Bristol City.

where everything just seemed to go in. For me it was nice to be in the side and you've got to take your chance when you can. I think I did that when I came in over Christmas and now that Robbo's out for a little while after his operation hopefully it's an opportunity to show what I can do."

Holmes briefly left Luton in the summer of 2003 amid the chaos of the John Gurney era, but returned after confusions over a contract offer had been resolved. Now he is hoping to secure more time at the Town by earning an extension to his current deal, which expires at the end of the season.

Holmes added: "Obviously I'm thinking about it, but I'm not worrying about it because that will only end up affecting your game.

"Brky, Nico and Sol have sorted their deals out, but the gaffer's already said he's not going to make a decision on me purely from what I did over Christmas. All I'm really concentrating on is getting a run in the team and helping to get Luton promoted."

Town made four changes from the side that lost 3-1 at Vale as Holmes

replaced O'Leary, Paul Underwood came in for Kevin Foley, Keith Keane filled in for Alan Neilson and Russ Perrett deputised for Chris Coyne.

An up tempo start saw Steve Howard hit the bar in the second minute and Underwood head over in the sixth before the ex-Rushden man squared for Brkovic to side-foot home from eight yards in the 10th minute.

Howard twice went close before lay-

ing in Rowan Vine, who was fouled by Louis Carey and Nicholls stroked home the 26th minute spot-kick.

City keeper Steve Phillips spilled Howard's 20-yarder allowing Davis to prod home on the stroke of half-time and Vine crossed for Holmes to volley in number four in the 61st minute.

More chances went begging before Brkovic hit number five 11 minutes from time after a scramble in the box.

MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT



"I CAN'T be anything other than delighted with that.

"It was our best home performance of the season and right from the word go we were creating chance after chance.

"The danger was being complacent and letting them back in it, but there was no way back for them after our fourth goal.

"We played some decent stuff and in the end it could have been more than

five. We couldn't have hoped for a better response from last week.

"I said at Port Vale that it was our worst performance of the season, but we won't judge the players on one bad game.

"We believe in them and they showed their character against Bristol City.

"We had people missing, but Holmesy, Keith Keane and Russ Perrett all came in and were excellent."