

Leaders sound warning

Luton 5
Bristol City 0

04/05

LEAGUE One leaders Luton notched their biggest win of the season with a thumping 5-0 success over play-off hopefuls Bristol City.

The hosts flew at City from the kick-off and only failed to take an early lead when Peter Holmes' bullet header was cleared off the line by Jamie Smith.

Within a few seconds Steve Howard's instinctive shot hit the crossbar, bounced up and hit the woodwork again before Luton took the lead when Ahmet Brkovic fired home Paul Underwood's low cross.

Underwood and Howard saw chances go begging before skipper Kevin Nicholls doubled the lead from the penalty spot after Louis Carey tripped Rowan Vine.

On the stroke of half time Sol Davis was quickest to react when Howard's volley from Brkovic's cross was fumbled by Steve Phillips.

The pain increased for City on the hour when Vine opened up their right flank before setting up Holmes for the fourth goal and with time running out, Brkovic was on hand to tuck away the fifth.

Luton manager Mike Newell hailed his side's "best home performance of the season".

But after this display he said: "Right from the start we created chance after chance.

"There was always a danger we could let them back into it, but there was no way back for them after our fourth goal and in the end we could have scored more than five."

The win maintained Luton's six-point lead over second-placed Hull, but more significantly stretched the gap to third-placed Tranmere to a massive 13 points.

Newell added: "The gap between ourselves and third place is the important one. If we can get to a position where we can't be caught for automatic promotion, which is obviously what we want, then we can start thinking about the title."

Bristol City manager Brian Tinnion said: "Luton were better than us by a country mile all over the pitch. It's as simple as that.

"I can understand the fans' frustration with me because I'm the manager and I pick the team, but I will hang in and get things right here."