

HATS HOW TO DO IT

Pictures: MAX NASH/PA

Newell's men are out to make sure of promotion place



LUTON TOWN.....5
Brkovic (10, 79), Nicholls (26pen), Davis (45), Holmes (61)

BRISTOL CITY0
BY ANDY MACKENZIE

HATTERS boss Mike Newell hailed his side's best performance of the season as League One leaders Luton crushed sorry Bristol City.

Two goals from Ahmet Brkovic, taking him to 14 for the season, and strikes from Kevin Nicholls, Perer Holmes and Sol Davis saw Luton cruise to a win.

The title chasing performance followed what Newell had described as his side's worst showing the week before.

And the Town boss said: "That's the perfect way to bounce back. We never had any doubts about the lads and everyone is due one bad game from 46, but they were back to their best.

"It was probably our best home performance of the season. There was always a danger we could let them back into it, but there was no way back for them after our fourth goal."

Steve Howard hit the bar in the second minute and Paul Underwood headed just over four minutes later before Brkovic opened the scoring after 10 minutes, side-footing home Underwood's pull-back from eight yards. City keeper Steve Phillips superbly tipped a Howard header around the post

LUTON	BRISTOL CITY
40	Possession % 60
9	Corners 4
3	Offsides 8
16	Fouls 17
2	Yellows 5
0	Reds 0
14	Shots On 2
4	Shots Off 0
2	Hit Woodwork 0

LUTON: Beresford 7, Keane 7, Perrett 7, Davies 7, Davis 7 (Showunmi 56), Underwood 8, Nicholls 8, Brkovic 9, Holmes 7 (Leary 82), Vine 7 (Andrew 82), Howard 8.

NEXT GAME: SWINDON (H) 12/03

BRISTOL CITY: Phillips 5, Coles 4 (Skuse 45), Carey 5, Fortune 5, Smith 5, Wilkshire 5, Bell 5, Dinning 5 (Orr 28), Brown 5 (Goodfellow 60), Lita 5, Brooker 5.

NEXT GAME: BARNLEY (H) 12/03

after 19 minutes, but there was nothing he could do about Nicholls' coolly taken penalty after Rowan Vine had been fouled in the box by Louis Carey.

Luke Wilkshire's 25 yard shot at Marlon Beresford was City's first attempt on goal on the half-hour mark, but Luton pressed on and Howard saw an effort cleared on the line by Danny Coles after 32 minutes.

Another Howard effort on the stroke of half-time led to Luton's third when Phillips parried, allowing Davis to steel in.

Luton continued their assault after the break and Vine centred for Holmes to volley in number four just after the hour before Howard headed against the bar after a Holmes' corner, only for Brkovic to smuggle home the rebound.

Newell added: "The gap between ourselves and third place is the important one if we can get to a position where they can't catch us."

City boss Brian Tinnion said: "They were better than us by a country mile all over the park, it's as simple as that."



In the net: Luton Town's Peter Holmes celebrates his goal against Bristol City with fans during their League One match at Kenilworth Road yesterday. Luton cruised to a win with the final scoreline 5-0