

Enoch late Show!

BOURNEMOUTH 0 HATTERS 1

A DRAMATIC late strike from Enoch Showunmi gave 10-man Town a super 1-0 win at play-off chasing Bournemouth as Luton closed in on automatic promotion.

The 6ft 4ins tall Nigerian international struck six minutes from time to give the Town a victory that had looked unlikely after Russell Perrett saw red in just the 22nd minute.

But Showunmi, who has now scored six times this season despite starting only seven first team games all term, revealed the secret to Luton's success was simply hard work.

The forward, who turns 23 next week, said: "Every game the gaffer and Brian (Stein) tell us that we won't get anywhere without hard work.

"We keep on putting it in until the end and that's why we've won so many games this season.

"We had to dig in and show resolve, but it just goes to show the quality that the lads possess.

"We kept the ball and kept passing it around and created chances in the first-half and the second-half and it was a good performance all round.

"It's hard to come and win at Bournemouth anyway, but to do it with 10 men is fantastic."

Hatters remained unchanged for the third match in succession as fit again Chris Coyne and £150,000 forward War-

ren Feeney stayed on the bench. And Town started promisingly with Ahmet Brkovic firing a volley just over from the edge of the box in the fifth minute and Rowan Vine somehow shooting wide with just home goalkeeper Neil Moss to beat six minutes later after Steve Howard had robbed Cherries' midfielder Marcus Browning.

But John Spicer saw a shot superbly tipped aside by Marlon Beresford and Wade Elliott had an effort cleared off the line by Perrett in the 21st minute as the tide turned.

And the momentum further went with Bournemouth a minute later after Perrett was sent off for tripping James Hayter as the striker ran clean through.

Hatters boss Mike Newell said of referee Trevor Parkes' decision: "Russ told us he had his eyes on the ball all the time, but that he missed the ball and the lad fell over him.

"At the end of the day, we've had that referee three times and he's sent a player off three times."

Town's reshuffle saw Vine, struggling with a calf injury, make way for Coyne who proceeded to have an out-

standing game alongside the also impressive Curtis Davies.

The best Bournemouth could offer was a 30-yard piledriver punched aside by Beresford before Newell introduced Feeney and Showunmi as Town went for the kill. Feeney fired just wide in the 73rd minute before Showunmi fired in off the bar from four yards after Howard had touched on Kevin Nicholls' corner at the near post.

Showunmi said: "The gaffer just basically said go on and win the game for us and I was glad I could do that.

"The ball was bobbling around in the six yard box and I just tried to get a leg to it and thankfully it went in.

"We've won a few 1-0s but that was an important result for us and the lads were ecstatic in the dressing room afterwards. Now we're looking to win the league as well as get promotion."



SHOWMAN: Enoch Showunmi hits his dramatic late winner for 10-man Town at Bournemouth.

MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT



"WE couldn't have asked for anything more from the lads and I'm proud of them.

"They were down to 10 men for over an hour, but we created chances and deserved to win the game.

"I saw Bournemouth at Bristol City in the week and they're a good footballing side, but they've been struggling at home for some reason.

"They had a five minute spell after we went down

to 10 men, but overall I don't think they troubled us. They didn't create any clear chances after the break and we restricted them to long shots, particularly at the end.

"I thought it was there for the taking and the substitutions were a case of getting people on who have goals in them. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but thankfully it did on this occasion."

STAR HATTER



KEVIN NICHOLLS: Hatters had a number of contenders for man-of-the-match after an impressive team display at Bournemouth.

But Kevin Nicholls was instrumental in holding Town together after Russell Perrett's sending off as he produced another commanding captain's performance.

As well as being solid in midfield, Nicholls sparked Luton's dominant finish to the game with two long-range second-half shots.

It's 2,500 tickets for Donnie!

LUTON have been handed nearly 2,500 tickets for their final game of the season at Doncaster on Saturday, May 7.

Seating tickets are priced £18 adults and £12 concessions, while terraced places are £15 adults and £8 concessions.

After tickets have been made available to season ticket hold-

ers, members can than purchase places, subject to availability, from Saturday April 23.

Hatters have been given 3,000 tickets for their penultimate away trip of the campaign at Wrexham on April 23 with entrance pay on the day.

Luton's last two home games of the season against MK Dons on Saturday and Brentford on

April 30 have both sold out. Meanwhile, Luton's final game of the season at Doncaster will have extra significance for boss Mike Newell after he was voted as Rovers' worst ever player in FourFourTwo magazine.

The publication told how Newell failed to collect his Player of the Month award after falling out with fans at Belle Vue.