

Luton show title credentials

04/05

Bournemouth 0
Luton 1

SUBSTITUTE Enoch Showunmi climbed off the bench to grab a late winner for 10-man Luton as they overcame the loss of defender Russell Perrett to open up a six-point lead at the top-of-the-table.

Showunmi was on hand to rifle a shot into the roof of the net from close-range with just seven minutes remaining to clinch an 11th away win of the season for Luton and move them to within one victory of promotion.

Perrett had performed wonders in the 20th minute to clear off his own line after Wade Elliott had lifted a shot past goalkeeper Marlon Beresford.

But the centre back saw red less than 60 seconds later after being guilty of a professional foul on Bournemouth's James Hayter with the striker clean through on goal.

Garreth O'Connor and Steve Fletcher should have done better for the home side with chances before the interval while Beresford did brilliantly to tip a 38th minute long-range shot from Stephen Purches round for a corner.

But Luton looked comfortable in the second half despite having a one-man

disadvantage, and striker Steve Howard and substitute Warren Feeney came close to breaking the deadlock before Showunmi's late strike.

Luton manager Mike Newell was



ENOCH SHOWUNMI

pleased to escape the trip to Bournemouth with the points despite playing with 10 men for 69 minutes.

"I am proud of them, they gave everything and even when we went down to 10 men I thought we could nick it," said Newell.

"We now want to win the League One title and it would be disappointing after such a good season if we don't win it.

"Bournemouth have been struggling at home recently and I felt they did not cause us many problems."

Cherries striker Fletcher, who made his 500th appearance for the home side, admitted his team mates were crestfallen after the final whistle.

"The lads are absolutely gutted at the moment," he said.

"When they went down to 10 men we thought we could go on from there, but we just couldn't break them down.

"It was a personal achievement for me, though I'm not going to have happy memories of it.

"But we still have a chance of getting into the play-offs — we've just got to go on and win our next four games."