

Luton not overawed as Morgan seals win

05/06

Luton Town	3
Southampton	2

By Tom Dart

SIX points from matches against two sides newly relegated from the top-flight suggests that Luton Town are not out of their depth at Coca-Cola Championship level. Worringly for Southampton, they were twice pegged back after taking the lead and a superb late strike punished a lacklustre performance.

Luton had much the better of the first half, but a moment of carelessness gave Southampton the lead in the seventeenth minute. Danny Higginbotham should not have been allowed to get in a low left-wing cross, but he did and Matt Oakley guided the ball in past the stumbling goalkeeper, Dean Brill.

A battle between two mid-field hard men was an engaging sideshow. Kevin Nicholls, the Luton captain, was booked for a tackle on Dennis Wise but drew his team level five minutes before the break, curling the ball in from ten yards.

However, Luton were again slack at the back in the final minute of the half. Brill, playing because of an injury to Marlon Beresford, came for Rory Delap's cross but Kenwyne Jones got to it first and nodded in.

It only took Luton six minutes after the restart to equalise, Ahmet Brkovic left in space at the far post to head in Nicholls's free kick. As against Crystal Palace on Saturday, Luton found a late winner: a fine bending shot from Dean Morgan in the last minute.

LUTON TOWN (4-4-2): D Brill — K Foley, C Davies, M Heikkinen, P Underwood — A Brkovic, S Robinson, K Nicholls, D Morgan — W Feeney (sub: E Showunmi, 87min), S Howard. **Substitutes not used:** R Perrett, R Vine, D Seremet, P Holmes. **Booked:** Nicholls, Davies.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): A Niemi — R Delap, D Powell, T Hajto, D Higginbotham — M Oakley, N Quashie, D Wise, D Prutton (sub: T Walcott, 61) — R Fuller, K Jones (sub: D Blackstock, 66). **Substitutes not used:** P Smith, M Cranie, D Belmadi. **Booked:** Hajto, Wise. **Referee:** S Bennett.