



Luton Town FC

Hull 0 - Luton 1
MARTIN BUHAGIAR
reports
from the KC Stadium



Howard grabs the Tigers by the tail

05/06

HATTERS goalkeeper **Marlon Beresford** produced a five-star performance to keep **Mike Newell's** men flying high in the Championship.

Beresford was in breathtaking form in a game which seemed sure to finish goalless until Steve Howard ploughed the Luton winner home six minutes from time.

It was just what the doctor ordered for Newell following his side's disappointing defeat to QPR in midweek.

Newell had his 'keeper to thank following a game which could have ended 3-3.

In a rip-roaring first half, the Tigers started the better.

After replacing the injured Danny Coles on eight minutes, Pete Taylor's team sprung into life with substitute Marc Joseph offering them width on the right.

Just five minutes after the change Nic Barmby had a shot blocked by Chris Coyne. The ball found its way to Chris Brown whose cross was narrowly headed wide by Ryan France.

The close shave seemed to spur the Hatters on and some great wing play by Dean Morgan saw a dangerous cross saved well by Bo Myhill in City's goal.

Ten minutes later the home side were unlucky not to take the lead. Stuart Elliott headed a deep cross back across the face of goal and Brown headed the ball down to Stuart Green who hit a stinging volley towards the goal. It seemed destined to fly past Beresford, but Hatters' Number One stuck out a strong arm and pushed it round the post for a corner.

On 32 minutes Barmby went close again

with a looping shot before before Morgan tested Myhill's reflexes for the second time.

He twisted inside the City defence and left fly with a fierce drive from 20 yards. Myhill was equal to it and pushed it wide.

Hull broke again minutes later and Brown's shot had Beresford sprawling to his right. With the home side pressing a goal seemed on the cards and Barmby did head the ball into the net but the former Spurs, Everton, Liverpool and Middlesbrough striker was clearly offside.

Six minutes before the break it was Hatters turn to have a goal disallowed. Ahmet Brkovic tucked the ball away and was harshly ruled offside.

Carlos Edwards went close with a volley, before Howard headed straight at the well placed Myhill.

It was more of the same in the second half with both teams going in search of three points.

But as the half wore on the visitors grew in stature and their higher fitness level was obvious.

Nicholls, Sol Davis and Coyne all went close before the breakthrough finally came in the 84th minute.

Morgan saw his drive saved by the inspired Myhill. The ball fell to Brkovic who crossed for Morgan. He headed into the path of Howard who drilled it into the back of the net to the delight on the travelling supporters.

After the game Newell singled Beresford out for praise. He said: "Marlon made some terrific saves, one of which was first class.

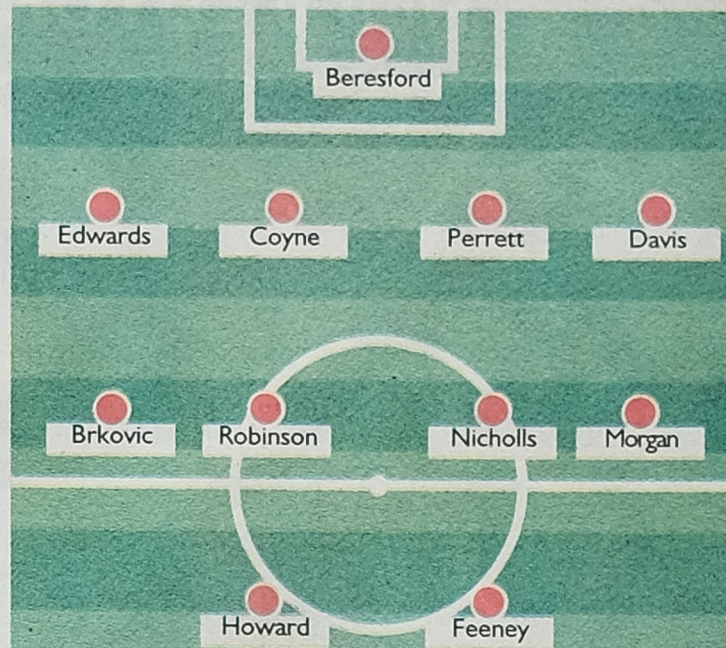
"Both 'keepers were excellent so I am delighted with the three points.

"I thought we controlled the game and played the better football. This is not an easy place to come."

With a busy schedule Newell did say he was concerned about injuries to his squad. He added: "We are down to the bare bones and have seven games in the next 21 days. Russ Perrett is in with the doctor after taking a bang to his head and Heikkinen is already out so we will have to see how we line up against Reading on Tuesday."

Newell also confirmed he will be appealing against the FA's decision to charge him with kicking the ball at referee Lee Probert at half-time during last week's game with Wolves.

He said: "I've got two weeks to lodge an appeal and I will be doing that."



Subs: Barnett (Perrett 90)
Subs not used: Brill, Holmes, Andrew, Keane

MAN OF THE MATCH

MARLON BERESFORD
String of stunning saves



Hatters danger men: Dean Morgan (above) and Ahmet Brkovic, who caused problems down the flanks for Hull City in an excellent win that keeps Luton among the Championship pacesetters

