

HOWARD THE PREMIER MAN ^{05/06}

MIKE NEWELL reckons Steve Howard can fire Luton to the Premiership — then score the goals to keep them up.

The Luton striker broke Hull keeper Boaz Myhill's heroic resistance in the 85th minute with a fierce drive into the roof of the net.

Newell said: "It was a great strike. If you get the ball into the right areas, Steve will score goals — never mind what league you're in."

This battle between promoted teams provided plenty of thrills.

Luton dominated the second half, with Howard's strike confirming they have settled into the Championship better than their opponents.

Hurt

Newell added: "We controlled the game and played the better football. It would have been very frustrating if we hadn't won. Myhill kept them in the game.

"Hull are always a threat. They've got players who can hurt you."

Myhill, 22, was also excellent in an end-to-end first half.

Hull manager Peter Taylor admitted: "It concerns me that Boaz had to play so well but we could have still got a point.

"We lost our shape for their goal — we were all over the place. The players will be watching the video. I would

By CARL LONG: Hull 0 Luton 1

certainly have settled for 0-0 although it was encouraging that we made enough chances earlier."

It was Hull's third successive defeat without having scored a goal after a promising start to the season.

The Tigers began badly when right-back Danny Coles was carried off with what might prove to be a long-term knee injury.

But they put together some flowing attacks, with Nick Barmby usually involved. There was little between the teams before the break.

Luton keeper Marlon Beresford came under plenty of pressure and the pick of his saves was a dive to keep out Stuart Green's volley.

Luton began the second half with Howard hitting the post and went on to swamp Hull.

Ahmet Brkovic, Steve Robinson, Kevin Nicholls and Dean Morgan used the full width of the KC Stadium pitch to keep their opponents on the back-foot.

Taylor rued the absence of his midfield enforcer Ian Ashbee, who is out for the season with a broken knee-cap. He said: "Ash would have made a difference."

SUN STAR MAN

BOAZ MYHILL (Hull).

Stopped everything and dominated his area.

