

Morgan ignites Luton

05/06

MIKE NEWELL is fooling nobody. The Luton Town manager has been quick to suppress supporter expectations this season, refusing to contemplate anything other than survival. But, if his side play like this, he will find it hard to dismiss questions about promotion.

He repeated that mantra yesterday, after his side recorded their seventh league victory in 12 matches. "Other people's expectations have changed, not ours," he said. "The plan is to carry on what we are doing. We are playing well and the team deserve what they have achieved."

Privately he must be ecstatic. Luton played some exceptional football, despite conceding after nine minutes when Michael Ricketts

Cardiff	1
Luton	2
Rob Maul at Ninian Park	

controlled a weak clearance from Chris Coyne and fired low beyond Marlon Beresford.

Luton soon equalised, profiting from a defensive mix-up. When Ahmet Brkovic whipped the ball forwards, the defence pushed up but Dean Morgan timed his run well to record the first goal against City in more than six hours.

Cardiff should have also dealt with the winning goal

but they failed to clear a powerful header across the penalty area, which Peter Holmes bundled into the net.

That, there were no more goals in this entertaining match, was remarkable. Darren Purse hit the crossbar, Steve Howard struck a post and then Ricketts should have equalised but his header bounced off the woodwork.

STAR MAN: Dean Morgan (Luton)

Player ratings. Cardiff: Alexander 7, Weston 5 (Parry 81min, 6), Loovens 6, Purse 6, Barker 6, Ardley 5, Cooper 6 (Lee 58min, 6), Ledley 7, Koumas 6 (Mulryne 86min, 6), Jerome 6, Ricketts 7

Luton: Beresford 7, Edwards 7, Coyne 6, Heikkinen 6, Davis 6, Brkovic 7 (Underwood 75min, 6), Nicholls 7, Holmes 8, Morgan 8 (Keane 80min, 6), Feeney 7 (Showunmi 85min, 7), Howard 7

Scorers: Cardiff: Ricketts 9

Luton: Morgan 30, Holmes 57

Referee: M Jones

Attendance: 14,657