



CONFIDENT: Howard

HOWARD'S WAY IS TO REMAIN POSITIVE

Crewe 3 Luton 1 ^{05/06}

STEVE HOWARD insists the wheels are not about to fall off Luton's promotion bid – despite this surprise defeat.

The Hatters became only Crewe's third scalps in 2005 despite striking early through Dean Morgan.

And in a game where they managed 13 shots on target, Town were beaten by a side that started the day as the Championship's bottom club.

Billy Jones cancelled out Morgan's opener and goals from Kenny Lunt and Luke Varney in the last three minutes sealed the win.

Alex keeper Ben Williams was in outstanding form, denying Warren Feeney and Peter Holmes with superb saves.

Luton striker Howard said: "It's early days but we've some quality in the dressing room and I don't see why we can't stay in the play-off places.

"People have expected us to turn up and get stuffed every week, but we proved them wrong.

"It may sound odd, but maybe the emphasis is off us now we've been beaten here. Expectations have been high since we've had such a good start to the season and this may cool things down.

Terrible

"Having said that, this is a terrible defeat. We had plenty of chances but didn't show the quality needed to kill them off. Their keeper was man of the match and rightly so."

Crewe found salvation in the form of skipper Lunt.

The long-serving midfielder has long been Crewe's inspiration but had been jeered by Gresty Road fans since admitting he wanted to try his luck at a new club.

Alex boss Dario Gradi said: "Kenny is not having the best of times, but he made a goal and scored a goal today.

"It was a rare bullet header from our captain. It was good for him and I hope people will now get off his back."

Luton boss Mike Newell said: "Sometimes you need a defeat like this to be taken down a peg or two. People's expectations have grown to a massive extent since we came into this division.

"People expect us to come to places like Crewe and win. We could have done, if we'd taken our chances."