

05/06



CREWE 3 LUTON 1



LOSS LEADER

Newell: Defeat can help us to the top



VERDICT

By JEREMY BUTLER at Alexandra Stadium

MIKE NEWELL reckons this defeat at lowly Crewe could actually help Luton's play-off dreams.

The Hatters were beaten by late goals from Kenny Lunt and Luke Varney after Billy Jones had cancelled out Dean Morgan's Luton opener.

It was Crewe's first win since the opening day of the season but boss Newell believes the loss will take some of the pressure off his newly-promoted side.

Beaten

He said: "The defeat hurts but sometimes you need a defeat to remind everybody of where we are and how much we have achieved so far.

"Sometimes you need to be beaten just to be knocked down a peg or two.

"Everyone's expectations have changed all of a sudden.

"We had played 12 games in this division and everyone was expecting us to come to Crewe and win.

"We could have done but, if you don't take your chances, teams stay in the

LUTON could have wrapped up the points by the break had it not been for Ben Williams' display.

game and come back and beat you. But there was nothing wrong with the way we played, just the fact we are not putting the ball in the back of the net.

"I'm disappointed we didn't have the game won by half-time. I'm not worried about the way we are playing – it was just a lot of players out there having an off day."

Luton failed to convert their first two chances with less than 10 minutes gone on the clock.

In the opening stages, striker Warren Feeney robbed Chris McCready as the Crewe defender attempted to let the ball run out of play.

Feeney fired in a shot that keeper Ben Williams blocked with his feet. Seconds later, Peter Holmes' bullet header was clawed away by Williams, who went on to deny Feeney a further three times in the first half.

But Morgan prodded the visitors ahead on 29 minutes.

That should have been the signal for Luton to register their fifth away win of the season.

But Jones levelled before the break and Lunt's diving header on 88 minutes, followed by Varney's cool finish, gave Crewe the win.



■ HIGH MARK – Crewe's Mark Rivers out-jumps Luton midfielder Ahmet Brkovic

Newell believes the loss will take pressure off his side