



Wolves' Joleon Lescott stretches for the ball in front of Luton's Rowan Vine at Molineux last night Bryn Lennon/Getty Images

Ince perfect strike lifts Wolves play-off ambitions

05/06

Arindam Rej Molineux

Wolverhampton 2 Luton Town 1

Davies 57, Ince 88

Howard 80

Paul Ince went from villain to hero in the space of eight minutes as his late winner snatched a valuable victory for Wolves against one of their main play-off rivals. Ince was partially responsible for Luton's late equaliser but made amends by showing impressive awareness when it was most needed at the other end.

The entertainment value was negligible in the first half. Wolves made the more energetic start but their only openings were from set-pieces rather than ingenuity in the final third. The most dangerous early dead-ball chance was earned by Mark Kennedy who dispossessed Kevin

Foley before being upended by the backpeddling Luton right-back. Kennedy rose to deliver a well-floated free-kick but Carl Cort headed wide.

Luton, forced to sit back for most of the half, gained their only genuine breakaway attack when Joleon Lescott ducked under a high ball that fell into the path of Enoch Showumni but his finish was tame.

Things had to improve in the second half and Luton suggested they were intent on making it happen with an early raid that culminated in Chris Coyne's header, which Ince headed off the line. But ironically it spurred Wolves into the attack that put them in front.

Clarke muscled his way into the six-yard box and his shot was parried by Beresford into the path of Mark Davies who slotted home. Kennedy's waspish drive forced Beresford into another save

soon afterwards as Wolves began asserting themselves. Kennedy caused trouble yet again with a run from the half way line that ended with him hitting the post from the edge of Luton's area.

In the 80th minute Wolves failed to clear Kevin Nicholls's cross properly, with Ince at fault, and Steve Howard took advantage of Stefan Postma's uncertainty to head beyond him. Ince then atoned for that error as he collecting the ball 25 yards out, his well-placed shot leaving Beresford with no chance.

Wolverhampton Wanderers (3-5-2): Postma, Edwards, Craddock, Lescott, Ross, Ince, Davies, Huddleston, Kennedy, Cort, Clarke.
Subs: Oakes, Ganea, Anderton, Seol, Ricketts.

Luton Town (4-4-2): Beresford, Foley, Coyne, Heikkinen, Underwood, Edwards, Nicholls, Showumni, Brkovic, Vine, Howard.
Subs: Brill, Barnett, Morgan, Feeney, Bell.

Referee: M Dean