

# KOUMAS TURNS GAME AROUND

Luton .....3  
Cardiff .....3

05/06

**JASON Koumas inspired Cardiff's recovery from two goals down with a stunning second half brace to earn Dave Jones' play-off chasers an unlikely point.**

Luton goalkeeper Marlon Beresford resumed in goal after having his dismissal in the 5-1 thumping at Preston rescinded, while midfielder Peter Holmes, out since Boxing Day, returned to the bench.

Cardiff boss Jones recalled Koumas to his starting line-up following suspension, dropping Willie Boland to the bench.

Luton were first on the offensive, Kevin Foley's eighth minute shot from the right of the penalty area well held by Cardiff goalkeeper Neil Alexander, before Steve Howard's 20-yard effort flew narrowly wide.

Howard, from 20-yards again, and Rowan Vine, with a lob from similar distance, further tested Alexander before Vine grabbed two goals in a minute.

First he headed Dean Morgan's left wing cross beyond Alexander in the 25th minute, and almost immediately raced onto Carlos Edwards' pass from the right to clip the ball into the opposite corner.

Cardiff tried desperately to regroup and responded with Koumas firing a free kick into the wall, while Beresford was alert to a stinging drive from Kevin Cooper.

But Vine, chasing his hat-trick, flashed another shot just wide from 12-yards as Luton finished the half on top.

Hatters midfielder Morgan went close minutes after the restart with a rasping drive, while Cardiff's Cameron Jerome drilled a 25-yard



**CAMERON JEROME celebrates with JASON KOUMAS (front left)**

effort over the crossbar at the other end.

Koumas then put an entirely different complexion on the game 10 minutes after the restart, the Welsh international unleashing a 25-yard drive that flew into the top corner.

But soon after, Luton restored their two-goal lead. Vine escaped down the right and when he whipped the ball across goal, Chris Barker, under pressure from Ahmet Brkovic, steered the ball into his own net.

Beresford was alert to Jerome's fierce snap shot as Cardiff refused to lie down before Riccardo Scimeca

pegged the Hatters back again with a header from Neal Ardley's looping cross in the 71st minute.

Then Joe Ledley's shot from 12-yards hit the crossbar as Cardiff threatened to turn the game on its head.

Morgan then saw his shot blocked by Jeff Whitley and Brkovic forced Alexander into a smart save from Edwards' cross as the action flowed.

But Koumas then stepped forward again to earn Jones' side a crucial point with another fine long-range shot, this time a low, fizzing effort from the edge of the area into the bottom corner with four minutes left.