

BODILY AHM

Brkovic holds up Watford charge, but Boothroyd is defiant



SHARP SHOOTER:
Brkovic rifles home for Luton

WATFORD manager Adrian Boothroyd insists his side can still win automatic promotion to the Premiership despite being frustrated by fierce rivals Luton.

Ahmet Brkovic's second-half goal for the Hatters cancelled out Marlon King's 36th minute opener in a blood-and-thunder derby at Vicarage Road.

The point secured the Hornets at least a Championship play-off place, but left them nine points behind second-placed Sheffield United with just four games remaining.

Boothroyd said: "I'm not really thinking about the play-offs. Even now I still think there's a lot of tough games left

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for the teams around us and if we can get ourselves right we still have a chance.

"I don't want to finish third, or fourth or fifth. I want to us to be the best we can be. I want to be successful and that means going up.

"If we do end up in the play-offs then I know that the teams around us won't fancy playing us. I know we're a good side."

King, who blasted his 20th goal of the season, echoed those thoughts.

He said: "Luton came here for the draw, but we're disappointed about conceding a goal which we should have cut out before it got to the back stick.

"Most of the goals we've been conceding have been our own doing. Right through the team

we've got to get together and concentrate on getting maximum points from the remaining four games. Then you never know what happens.

"Mentally the season is really just starting for us and everyone here is ready for it."

King was denied a last-minute winner by a superb block from Luton keeper Marlon Beresford, just moments after Malky Mackay had a 'goal' ruled offside.

The tense finale also saw Town boss Mike Newell clash with Hornets first-team coach David Hockaday in front of the dug-outs.

Boothroyd joked: "Nothing wrong with that at all. Mike just did what he did for 20 odd years in the Premiership, rolled Dave superbly and won the ball fair and square."

Newell said: "I'm just glad we

got something out of the game. If we'd got the points we should have away from home this season we'd be where Watford are now."

Newell is no closer to agreeing a long-term contract with the club - despite the Hatters' announcement that a four-year deal had been settled some weeks ago.

Newell is waiting to see whether chairman Bill Tomlins and his board will back him financially during the summer.

"If the club has ambition, they will want to keep me, just as I will want to keep the players," said Newell. "I will have to have some backing."



KING FOR A DAY: Watford's Marlon King hits the opener