



Luton Town's
AHMET
BRKOVIC
scores

Barnsley	1
Luton	2

06/07

SUBSTITUTE Ahmet Brkovic snatched an injury-time winner for Luton to deny Barnsley a deserved point at Oakwell.

Brkovic, a 63rd minute replacement for Richard Langley, headed home fellow substitute Sol Davis' cross when it appeared both sides would have to settle for a point.

On loan Arsenal goalkeeper Vito Mannone made his third start for Barnsley in place of the suspended Nick Colgan but otherwise the Tykes were unchanged.

Luton manager Mike Newell fielded the same XI who started in the previous week's 2-2 home draw with West Brom, with fit-again Davis on the bench.

Mannone was pressed into early action when he turned Dean Morgan's fourth minute corner round his post, while Marlon Beresford was alert at the other end to hold Martin Devaney's shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Sam Parkin headed Steve Robinson's corner over the crossbar and Leon Barnett went close with a similar effort from Langley's free kick for the visitors, while Barnsley were struggling to carve out any clear-cut chances.

Bobby Hassell failed to get his header on target from Michael McIndoe's cross and, although Barnsley enjoyed the lion's share of possession, they were unable to trouble the Luton defence on a regular basis.

Carlos Edwards tested Mannone from 20-yards and just before the break, Barnsley's Marc Richards rifled a volley over the crossbar.

The second half was only two minutes old when Luton made the breakthrough.

Edwards found himself in space 20-yards out and he unleashed a low drive that flew into the bottom corner.

But within 60 seconds Barnsley were level. Paul Hayes was sent clear down the right wing and his cross was steered into the bottom corner from 12-yards by Brian Howard.

Langley headed Rowan Vine's cross wide soon after and Lewis Emanuel fired wide from 25-yards as Luton looked to regain the lead.

Robinson was next to threaten for the visitors, his drilled shot from the edge of the area blocked by Barnsley defender Sam Togwell, before Barnett headed Morgan's corner over the crossbar.

Tykes striker Richards dragged a close-range shot wide, but it was Luton who created more chances and Emanuel flashed another shot from outside the area just wide.

The game was now a free-flowing affair with chances created at either end.

Mannone did well to hold Vine's stinging 18-yard shot and Beresford was equal to McIndoe's free kick on the edge of the penalty area.

Home pair Howard and McIndoe both went close from distance and substitute Tommy Wright, just moments after coming on, shot inches over from 25-yards.

Mannone denied Parkin from 12-yards in fine style in the closing stages and Vine lobbed over the crossbar as Luton looked to snatch a late winner.

And the visitors stole all the points three minutes into stoppage-time when substitute Davis crossed from the right and Brkovic rose to head home from six-yards.

Ritchie offers some words of encouragement to keeper

BARNSELEY boss Andy Ritchie was fully of sympathy for goalkeeper Vito Mannone after his late error handed victory to Luton on his home debut.

Mannone came for a cross but missed the ball, allowing Ahmet Brkovic to score the winner.

Mannone, on loan from Arsenal, was inconsolable at full time and Ritchie said: "I

am really disappointed for him, it's probably the worst thing that could happen to anyone on their home debut.

"I felt for him, he was close to tears.

"When I saw him come for the ball I thought 'great' but the ball just slipped through his hands. I said to him 'don't worry about it'.

Ritchie added "I am disappointed for the team, for

the effort they put in. We've got to pick ourselves up and hold our heads up high. We should have finished the game at half time."

Luton boss Mike Newell was also sympathetic to Mannone: "I feel for the young goalkeeper but that's what young players have to do, make mistakes to get better.

"I am delighted that we

scored and won the game, if anyone was going to win it late on, it was going to be us. We have had plenty of late winners scored against us in the past.

"We didn't play really well in the first half but in the second we played much better.

"Brkovic can sniff out goals and that's what he did today."