



SOUTHAMPTON...2 LUTON....1

Baird 16, Rasiak 38 pen

Perrett 67



SOUTHAMPTON

KELVIN DAVIS	6/10
At fault with Luton's goal but other than that had little else to do	
PEDRO MIGUEL PELE	8/10
Moved into midfield and was just about Southampton's best player	
CHRIS MAKIN	6/10
Solid performance at right back, nothing got past him, and helped his attack	
GARETH BALE	7/10
Yet another superb display - dynamic going forward and some crunching tackles	
CLAUS LUNDEKVAM	7/10
Back to his best, towering in the air and superb positioning	
CHRIS BAIRD	7/10
First goal in four years and his defending also caught the eye	
JOHN VIAFARA	6/10
Worked down the right until being substituted and did some useful work	
JERMAINE WRIGHT	6/10
Unspectacular in the middle of midfield but his workrate provided an example	
ANDREW SURMAN	6/10
Produced some delightful passes but was found out for pace	
RUDI SKACEL	6/10
Played as a striker and went close with a powerful free-kick	
GRZEGORZ RASIAK	7/10
Always a handful and scored from the controversial penalty	
SUBSTITUTES	
JONES - 6/10; FOR VIAFARA (70)	
LICKA; FOR SKACEL (86)	
NOT USED: BIALKOWSKI; OSTLUND; WRIGHT-PHILLIPS	

STAR PLAYERS

PEDRO MIGUEL PELE

DEAN KIELY



STAR RATING **8**

STAR RATING **8**

LUTON

DEAN KIELY	8/10
Should have done better with Baird's goal but produced several sound saves	
LEON BARNETT	7/10
Gave away the penalty which marred an otherwise impeccable display	
KEVIN FOLEY	6/10
Withdrawn in the second half and could have got forward more	
MARKUS HEIKKINEN	6/10
Busy enough but failed to make much of a mark on the game	
LEWIS EMANUEL	7/10
One or two wicked free-kicks, he was also strong in the tackle	
RUSSELL PERRETT	7/10
Enjoyed his goal but he struggled to keep the lively Rasiak quiet	
STEVE ROBINSON	5/10
Got through plenty of running but never quite found a way through	
AHMET BRKOVIC	5/10
Was always the one player who looked likely to cause problems	
CARLOS EDWARDS	5/10
Not able to make much of a contribution, he was pretty ineffective	
ADAM BOYD	5/10
Taken off at half-time after an anonymous first 45 minutes	
WARREN FEENEY	6/10
Hit the post early on and his pace made him a handful	
SUBSTITUTES	
MORGAN - 6/10; FOR BOYD (46)	
BELL - 6/10; FOR FOLEY (65)	
NOT USED: BERESFORD; LANGLEY; HOLMES	



HEADS YOU WIN:
Chris Baird scores
Southampton's
opening goal
PICTURES: Robin Jones

Newell rages at penalty

By SAM MORTON

LUTON TOWN boss Mike Newell complained that Southampton should not have been awarded their penalty as his side lost at St Mary's to extend their miserable losing sequence to seven matches.

Newell, who must now fear for his job after the Saints withstood some late pressure to win comfortably, insisted it was not Leon Barnett who handled the ball but a Southampton player.

Grzegorz Rasiak slotted home the spot-kick to make it 2-0 but Newell blasted: "The goal that decided the game was a penalty given for handball, but it was not handball by one of my players.

"I believe the ball hit the Southampton striker's hand and we have four or five players in our dressing room who will swear on their lives that Leon was not to blame.

"This is another defeat and it's difficult to take too many positives out of this one although the second half was better than the first. We had a few opportunities to nick something but there is a lack of confidence in the squad.

"But we must look forward, not feel sorry for ourselves and keep trying to play the football we are capable of.

"I tried to bring in three or four on-loan players on deadline day but all I've managed is one and we have one of the smallest squads in the division."

Burley, convinced it was a penalty, said: "It was definitely handball. I thought their player was attempting to play basketball with it.

"That is five games unbeat-

en and we are starting to find that consistency we need to get out of the division.

"I was pleased with the first half when we scored two goals and created lots of chances. The second half was different although we had chances to have made it three or four before Luton scored.

"But that is three very good points. It sets us up for the match with Birmingham next week and that should be a cracker."

Southampton have now gone five games without defeat and have manoeuvred themselves into a strong position on the fringes of the play-off zone. The Saints were much the stronger side in the first half and should have been well ahead by the interval.

But Luton came back strongly after the break, pulled a goal back through Russell Perrett and came close to snatching an equaliser.

Luton had the game's first real opportunity in the 11th minute when Ahmet Brkovic set up a chance which Warren Feeney turned against the post from close range.

Luton had on-loan goalkeeper Dean Kiely in goal

and the Portsmouth player produced some important saves over the afternoon.

But, after 14 minutes, he could have done better when Chris Baird headed goalwards from a centre by Gareth Bale. Kiely got his hands to the ball but could not prevent it falling behind him into the net.

Southampton went further in front in the 36th minute when Barnett was adjudged to have handled under pressure from Rasiak and the Polish striker got up to score from the penalty spot for his 11th of the season.

Kiely kept Luton in the match with saves from Rasiak and Rudi Skacel before Luton surged back into contention with a goal in the 66th minute.

Lewis Emanuel took a free-kick on the left and, as former Luton goalkeeper Kelvin Davis advanced from his line, Hampshire-born Perrett headed over him and into the net.

Kiely once more came to Luton's rescue when he tipped over a Skacel free-kick from long distance before the Hatters mustered one frantic last attempt at an equaliser in the three minutes added on for injuries.

Fortunately for Southampton, Portuguese midfielder player Pele came to the rescue with a crucial header as Warren Feeney threatened to finish off another Emanuel cross.



TOP MAN: Baird is congratulated by team-mate Claus Lundekvam

MATCH STATS

SOUTHAMPTON v LUTON

7	Shots on target	1
6	Shots off target	5
9	Corners	6
4	Offside	3
6	Fouls conceded	10
0	Yellow Cards	1
0	Red Cards	0
56	Possession %	44

Att: 20,482 Rating: ★★★★★

Ref: P Armstrong - 7/10