



OUR HERO: Luton's Rowan Vine celebrates with team mates after scoring their third goal

PICTURES: Action Images

MATCH STATS		
LUTON v COVENTRY		
9	Shots on target	7
3	Shots off target	9
6	Corners	9
6	Offside	7
22	Fouls conceded	7
4	Yellow Cards	0
0	Red Cards	0
46	Possession %	54

By BRIAN HOWARD

LUTON TOWN manager Mike Newell praised Dean Kiely after the veteran on-loan keeper made a string of fine first-half saves to ensure this Hatters victory.

Newell said: "It's a great result, but you have to say they were the better team in the first half. We were thankful to Dean Kiely, but that's what goalkeeper's are there for."

The game kicked off in gloomy conditions and Luton were the first to sniff out an opening in the fourth minute.

Mikkel Bischoff completely missed Steve Robinson's curling pass down the left channel allowing Rowan Vine to run in on goal and hit an angled 20-yard drive that Luke Steele gathered at the second attempt.

The visitors though gradually took control and Stern John tested Kiely with an 18-yard snap-shot. Elliott Ward then went close with an eight yard header from a Stephen Hughes corner that flashed just past the post in the 21st minute.

Kiely had to be alert to block Leon McKenzie's effort from point-blank range after Mikkel Bischoff had headed on Richard Duffy's deep free-kick into the box.

Coventry kept coming and only a miraculous double save from Kiely kept the game goalless in the 31st minute. Kevin Foley lost the ball far too easily to McKenzie on the left, and the former Norwich man crossed for Dele Adebola to flick on for John, whose six yard header was blocked by Kiely.

Then, as the ball fell for Colin Cameron, Luton's on-loan Portsmouth stopper somehow blocked the rebound.

Another Coventry attack saw McKenzie head straight at Kiely from ten yards in the 34th minute after meeting Hughes' free-kick on the right.

In first-half stoppage time Kiely continued his heroics with a superb fingertip save to tip Hughes' curling 30-yard free-

HERO DEAN HAS NEWELL PURRRING



LUTON

Brkovic 45
Vine 66
Morgan 68

.....3 COVENTRY1

Brkovic 59 og



Att: 8,299 Rating: ★★★★★ Ref: A Taylor - 5/10

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kick over the bar. Incredibly, the Hatters went into the break a goal up when they scored in stoppage time completely against the run of play.

Ahmet Brkovic dispossessed Cameron and held off Bischoff before despatching a dipping 20-yard effort that went over Steele before nestling in the far corner of the net.

Brkovic netted again on the hour - only at the wrong end. The Croat was back doing his defensive duties as Luton faced up to a Hughes free-kick 40 yards out but, as the winger challenged McKenzie for the cross, the ball flicked off his head and found the back of the net off the underside of the crossbar.

Town reshuffled by bringing on Chris Coyne for the ineffective Robinson, moving Barnett into midfield. And the move paid off as the Hatters scored twice in three

minutes to seal the points.

Firstly Carlos Edwards received the ball out wide in the 64th minute and crossed for the onrushing Vine to net at the second attempt.

In the 66th minute Luton were in the driving seat when they won a free-kick for a Hughes handball and Morgan stepped up to arrow a superb drive into the far corner from 25 yards.

LUTON: 4-4-2: Kiely 9, Barnett 7, Foley 6, Heikkinen 6, Emanuel 7, Morgan 6 (Feeney 81), Robinson 5 (Coyne 7, 63), Bell 6, Brkovic 6 (Langley 83), Edwards 5, Vine 7. Subs not used: Beresford, Boyd.
COVENTRY: 4-4-2: Steele 5, Duffy 6, Ward 7, Bischoff 6, Clarke 6, Cameron 6 (Currie 74), Hughes 8, Doyle 6, Adebola 7 (Virgo 74), McKenzie 7, John 6 (Kyle 74). Subs not used: Hall, Birchall.

STAR MAN: DEAN KIELY
(Luton Town)



DUEL: Coventry's Dele Adebola takes on Luton's Leon Barnett