

BELL TOLLS ON LUTON'S STAR TURN



DEJECTED: Southend fan

Southend 1 Luton 3

DAVID BELL, Luton's player of the year, inspired the relegated Hatters to a first win under manager Kevin Blackwell, but then admitted his future was uncertain at the Bedfordshire club.

The 23-year-old winger set-up Calvin Andrew and Matthew Spring for first-half strikes at Southend before teenage Liverpool loan forward Besian Idrizaj sealed the points late on after Lee Bradbury had given the Shrimpers hope.

Town's first away win in seven months also consigned Southend to the drop, meaning both clubs will face each other in League One next season.

But whether Bell, currently being watched by a host of clubs, will be around to play in that fixture remains to be seen.

The former Rushden man said: "To be honest it's out of my hands. I'm a Luton player and happy here, but if the situation

came about where I could maybe stay in the Championship or play at a higher level, I'd be silly not to do so. I wouldn't say no if that was the case."

Bell, a £125,000 signing from the Diamonds, has won a long list of admirers with his performances since moving to Luton in January last year.

Hatters boss Blackwell said: "Unfortunately that's what happens - when a football club goes down, your players are ripe for picking. We've got a new chairman in and hopefully we won't be forced to sell any of them."

Southend manager Steve Tilson may face similar problems keeping hold of goalscoring pair Freddie Eastwood and Mark Gower, who both missed this loss through injury.

Tilson said: "I hope we've learnt a little bit from this season. If we are to come straight back up, we'll need more quality and that means money, which is difficult."