

LUTON JEERED AS CHARLTON START TO CLIMB

61/62

By MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Luton 1

Charlton 6

THE business of being a manager can be as unrewarding as any and I, for one, felt particularly sorry for Luton's Sam Bartram as he watched his team torn to shreds by Charlton, his old club.

Bartram, heftier now than in his playing days at the Valley, sat phlegmatic and unmoved, glancing only occasionally at his watch and doubtless wishing away the 90 minutes quicker than they would go.

Afterwards he was ungrudging in his praise of a Charlton side that played with a skill no team struggling to avoid relegation from the Second Division is expected to possess. But behind his outward cheerfulness lay an afternoon of grim memories.

The soccer public are harsh critics of a poor side, particularly when it is the one they support. And Bartram will surely remember this one, hushed at first as Luton struggled to hold their own; but, as Charlton swept ahead, jeering their favourites and finally, the most bitter sound of all—silence at all the mistakes and cheers only for Charlton.

Best Display in Years

Yet badly though Luton played Charlton are certainly on the way back. This must have been their best display in years and, as they toyed with their fumbling opponents, memories came flooding back of their great years immediately after the war.

I doubt whether I have ever seen a side so dominate a match as Charlton did. Once they had recovered from the shock of Turner's goal in the 23rd

minute—though it was only an own goal by Pacey which put them level—they were never in the slightest trouble.

Edwards scored a hat-trick. His first goal, a glorious header from Bailey's centre, was acknowledged even by Baynham, and Leary and Kinsey added the fifth and sixth. The score was 3-1 after 35 minutes, 5-1 after an

hour and 6-1 after 73 minutes. Nobody bothered to leave early because they wanted to be there to see double figures.

That this landmark was not reached was due to Charlton's kindness.

It was a memorable display and to select individuals is scarcely necessary. But Bailey was outstanding at left-half, Leary kept the line moving sweetly and there was always the finishing power of Edwards.

So Charlton are off the bottom of the table. On this form they will never be there again.

Luton.—Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Groves, Cope, Pacey; Walden, Ashworth; Turner, McKechnie, Legate.

Charlton.—Duff; Sewell, Hewie; Tocknell, Hinton, Bailey; White, Matthews, Leary; Edwards, Kinsey.