

Seven-goal thrashing for Luton

Luton2 Shrewsbury ...

THIS thrashing was a tremendous setback to Luton's hopes of avoiding relegation. Apart from the loss of the points, they now have a goal average superior only to Port Vale in the bottom six.

Shrewsbury, in dazzling form and prompted by the astute play of former England inside forward Broadbent, cut through the shaky Luton defence almost at will.

Inside half an hour they were three goals up.

Ross and Boardman (2) settled the result during this period, and although cumbersome Luton revived their flagging hopes slightly with a fine goal by O'Rourke. Shrewsbury were always the more dangerous.

Handicap

An injury to right-back McBain, who spent much of the second half limping on the left wing, handicapped Luton even further, and Scott hit two more goals for Shrewsbury inside 15 minutes of the restart.

Sandwiched between these goals was one by Phillips.

Luton, sadly disjointed but still fighting, conceded another two goals in the closing minutes, both by Boardman, who took his total for the match to four.

• With the possibility that former England goalkeeper Ron Baynham may be out for the rest of the season through a thigh injury, Luton signed Tony Read, the Peterborough and former Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper, yesterday for a modest fee.

FAIR PLAY: Luton 75%
Shrewsbury 75%.

Luton. — Tinsley; McBain, Jardine, Gibson, Pacey, Reid; Pleat, Ridd, O'Rourke, Phillips, McKechnie.

Shrewsbury. — Boswell; Wright, Walters, Hemsley, Harris, Brodie; Scott, Broadbent, Ross, Boardman, Taylor.