

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Hapless Luton had not looked like being so overwhelmed at half-time. Scunthorpe began with a sensational burst of scoring—three goals in the first seven minutes—but the visitors were fighting back strongly at the interval." — "Sunday Express".

"Scunthorpe rubbed salt into Luton's relegation wound with a decisive seven-goal victory after being 3-0 ahead in precisely seven minutes." — "Sunday Telegraph".

"Boosted by five golden goals from their powerhouse centre-forward Barrier Thomas, Scunthorpe United dispatched a dejected Luton Town into the Fourth Division and also notched their biggest-ever League victory." — "The People".

TOWN WERE HIT BY EARLY GOAL BLITZ

The injury to O'Rourke was the crowning blow

By Chiltern

SCUNTHORPE UNITED 8, LUTON TOWN 1

IN just seven minutes, Scunthorpe removed in decisive fashion any slim chance the Town might have had of avoiding relegation and ensured that they will face life next season in the hard surroundings of the Fourth Division.

One of the most remarkable starts to a match this season, led to Scunthorpe, who had five defeats immediately behind them, building up a three goals lead, and it could have been longer, against a Town defence that was all at sea.

Trouble began in the second minute when McBain left **WILSON** in an unmarked position to collect a pass from Lindsey and the winger planted the ball into the far corner of the net.

Two minutes later, Bramwell failed in a tackle on **MAHY**, who put on the second goal and after only three more minutes, Tinsley went down late to a shot by **BRAMLEY** from the edge of the penalty area.

After the second goal, the Town might have replied, but Sidebottom made a fantastic save from O'Rourke who also shot straight at the goalkeeper afterwards.

Had the centre-forward's luck really been in, he might have had a hat-trick, but had to be content with one goal and that had a tragic accompaniment.

INJURED IN SCORING

It came in the 28th minute when Harber pushed the ball through the middle and **O'ROURKE** cleverly put it into the net as Sidebottom came out.

Unfortunately, in the collision with the goalkeeper, the centre-forward damaged his left knee and was never effective afterwards.

Indeed, he began the second half at outside-left and, with 14 minutes gone, damaged his knee again, and went off for good.

By then, the Scunthorpe lead was 4-1, **THOMAS** having increased it a minute after the interval and it became all one way traffic with the home halves and even the backs starting to come through with the ball.

In the 68th minute, **THOMAS** scored again and within four minutes had lifted his personal tally to four, and then completed the rout with another a minute from the end.

Without doubt, the mishap to O'Rourke had a tremendous effect on the final score but even had they remained at full strength, I doubt whether the Town could have overcome their dreadful start.

For one thing, the team did not seem to be in the mood of great determination that enabled them to win at Walsall and there was some slipshod

marking and covering in defence which proved fatal to their chances.

MOST WERE WELL BELOW FORM

With the possible exception of Jardine, and even he had a struggling time, not one member of it revealed anything approaching his best form.

McBain never had a grip on Wilson and there was considerable weakness at wing-half where both Lownds and Bramwell were out of touch.

Nor could Gibson hold Thomas who was too good for him in the air, but things were made difficult for the centre-half by the fact that he was frequently faced by more than one opponent.

Even Tinsley fell below the high standard he has set for himself recently and carried the blame for a couple of the goals.

Forward, there was the early threat from O'Rourke, but precious little else, Phillips was scarcely in it and although Reid pushed the ball about in the first half he did not add to the punch in the line.

Nor was there the usual liveliness from Harber and Whittaker and, altogether it was a pretty colourless show, even allowing for the handicap.

SCUNTHORPE UNITED.—Sidebottom; Horstead, Hemstead; Smith, Neale, Lindsey; Bramley, Scott, Thomas, Mahy, Wilson.

LUTON TOWN.—Tinsley; McBain, Jardine; Lownds, Gibson, Bramwell; Harber, Phillips, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.

Referee.—Mr. E. Norman, Blackburn. Attendance. — 2,587.