

Two Luton men are sent off

by JACK HEATHER

Hartlepool 2 Luton 0

HARTLEPOOLS solved another relegation problem and Luton suffered a set-back in their promotion hopes after a fantastic series of unexpected events at Victoria Ground.

The visitors ended up with only nine men on the field after two were sent off. And referee C. M. Cooke of Blackburn had plenty more to put in his notebook. Luton's troubles began after Hartlepool took an early lead.

Then Bruce Rioch went off injured following a tackle with Grant and substitute Tony Read joined the fray.

But after only ten minutes the substitute walked crestfallen off the field after a tussle with Fogarty.

Then shortly after the second half opened Fred Jardine received his marching orders for fouling Barry Ashworth.

Unenviable

On top of this Luton were in the unenviable position of having McKechnie and Moore booked in addition to warnings handed out to Colin Tinsley and John Rele.

But Hartlepool did not escape the eagle eye of referee Cooke. Fogarty, who today begins a 14-day suspension imposed by the F.A., was cautioned, and so was pivot Gill.

The game opened with Hartlepool piling on the pressure in a desperate bid to get further away from the bottom of the division.

They rocked Luton with a Thompson goal in 14 minutes. The pressure was constant and on several occasions shots by the home forwards struck the woodwork.

Pools went further ahead early in the second half with a goal from Wright.

But even with nine men Luton did not give up. Under difficult conditions they tried hard and it was only their lack of numbers which prevented them from evening the score.