

Disaster day for Luton

by PETER GILL

Luton 2 Notts County 5

JUST ABOUT every indignity that could befall any team overcame Luton on this disastrous afternoon.

They "gifted" goals generously, cast doubts on the worthiness of their own defence, and in addition had two key players injured.

To all intents and purposes this match was over in the first quarter of an hour, at the end of which County had built up a three-goal lead.

Maybe that is being generous, because looking back the killer punch came in the fourth minute. Then everyone in defence stood still and watched a tame free kick by Frank Upton trickle over the line off a post. It was a classic example of complete misunderstanding and goalkeeper Tony Read seemed to be the chief culprit.

Lost confidence

Whoever was to blame, and there are varying views, the Luton defence lost its confidence entirely and Terry Harkin had scored twice by the 15th minute.

Inadequate covering was to blame in each case and Luton looked like being overwhelmed when, 10 minutes from half-time, Upton scored again from 25 yards.

But Luton showed some semblance of fight near half-time when David Pleat pulled back one of their arrears.

Luton's hopes sank when Bruce Rioch pulled a muscle and limped on the wing, but County's domination was ended and Tony Thear scored a second goal in the 66th minute.

County took a grip again, penned Luton back into defence, and Ian Gibson from the penalty spot scored their fifth goal 10 minutes from time.