

£35,000 trio boost Luton's high hopes

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THERE IS a feeling at Luton that promotion to the Second Division in one season is not beyond them. Certainly, the convincing ease with which they annihilated Oldham suggests that this is no idle boast.

In support of their ambition they have speculated something like £35,000 on a trio of players.

All three appeared in an attack that showed both finesse and striking power. In fact, but for a great and agile display by David Best—the goalkeeper Ipswich want and in whom Bristol City are now interested—Oldham would have had an even bigger thrashing.

Indeed, so brilliant was Luton's display on all-out attacking football that the crowd, of nearly 15,000, gave them standing ovations.

At that stage, Luton were two up, through Mike Harrison (17min.) from the penalty spot, and Keith Allen (42min.) with a fine drive after Laurie Sheffield had hit the bar.

Some of the sparkle went out of it when Graham French lumped out of the game three

Luton - - - 4

Oldham - - - 0

by PETER GILL

minutes after half-time with strained ankle ligaments which may keep him out of the side for two or three weeks.

That left a void on the right wing but, even so, Luton prospered. Freddie Jardine hit the third goal after 59 minutes from 25 yards and Brian Lewis rounded off a famous victory a minute from the end.

Of the newcomers, Harrison and Lewis stood out, while Sheffield's main value was that he was always harassing the defence.

Oldham's manager Jimmy

McIlroy must have looked with envy at the way the Luton forwards brought Best into action. He readily admits that he needs a couple of strikers and that money is short—which is another reason why Best may move.

Their attacking build-up was slow and cumbersome and the forwards scarcely had a shot in their locker. Yet there was a ray of hope in the promise of teenage Billy Aitken, making his debut at outside left.

Apart from Best, 21-year-old centre half Allan Hunter, much liked by several other clubs, and Ian Wood, were the main reasons why their Luton goals were limited to four.

On this showing Oldham could find themselves in real trouble unless they can secure reinforcements.

But they were perhaps unlucky to find Luton in carnival mood and determined to give a handsome boost to their new career.