

Halom hat-trick

by PHILIP OSBORN

Luton 3 Sheff Wed 1

VIC HALOM, target of the Kenilworth Road boo-boys for most of this game, smashed a late hat-trick to demolish the "flop" label that has haunted him since he joined Luton from Fulham last September.

The burly striker gave the victory sign to the crowd after each of his first two goals.

Later he collected the match ball and two bottles of champagne from the club and then said: "I hope this will get the crowd off my back.

"You can't help getting upset at the way they get on to you here when things aren't going right. Perhaps it will be different now."

Halom hadn't scored since

71/72
February 5 and had collected only four goals since joining Luton.

He corrected his image by gathering his result-swinging goals—his first-ever League hat-trick—in a devastating 11-minute burst.

For a long period Wednesday had looked likely to break their wretched run of four successive away defeats.

They had been presented with a goal in the 11th minute when John Ryan kicked over the ball to allow Brian Joicey to net with ease.

Don Givens, who had replaced the injured Alan Slough, and Peter Anderson began to assert themselves for Luton after the interval. A powerful drive from Anderson, which was bravely parried by Pearson, led to Halom blasting the equaliser.

Nine minutes later Halom headed Luton ahead. Then in the 87th minute he broke clear to complete his hat-trick.