

HASLAM'S

'AWAY'

PLAN

TAKES A

HIDING

by PHILIP OSBORN

Luton 0 Carlisle 1

LUTON BOSS Harry Haslam ordered his promotion hopefuls to report four hours before the kick-off and then took them for an out-of-town lunch in a vain effort to counter their Kenilworth Road complex.

He explained: It was a bit of kidology to try and get them into the frame of mind they have before an away game."

But the plan backfired as Luton, the country's best away side, stumbled to their third successive home defeat.

They have now failed to win in six attempts before their home fans and you could understand Haslam's frustration as he admitted afterwards: "I'm bewildered.

"We use the same tactics home and away and yet they play like two different teams.

"You would hardly believe that the side which lost ran Villa sick last week. They seem to have a dread of things going wrong at home and this upsets their play.

PROBLEM

"I will try anything to solve this problem. I might take them away on the Friday before the next home game. Or maybe I will try to find a hypnotist to work on them."

Carlisle, who have now taken nine points from the last five games, were always good value for their first away win since April.

Luton wingers Jimmy Ryan and John Aston were never allowed freedom to exploit their pace. Rod Fern was firmly checked by the immaculate Graham Winstanley and only Vic Halom offered any suggestion of being able to break the dismal home sequence.

Halom sent a shot and a header just wide early on. But he faded and, after limping off in the 72nd minute, Luton fashioned only one further chance.

This came eight minutes from time when Jimmy Ryan headed straight at Carlisle keeper Allan Ross. Carlisle deservedly went ahead through Owen in the 28th minute with a fine low shot.

And a minute later they almost got another when Laidlaw hit the foot of a post with a free kick.