

- TOWN HUMILIATED -

The Hull City Tigers tear poor Luton apart

LUTON TOWN were last night mauled by the Hull City Tigers as they dismally crashed to a 4-0 defeat. Hull, in the running for a place in next season's Watney Cup competition, showed the Town their teeth and gave them a lesson on how to take chances.

This must have ranked as Luton's worst performance of the season. They were outpaced and outplayed as Hull made a mockery of the Town's impressive away record.

By ERIC HARRIS

After the first 30 minutes Luton were never in the game. There was little construction in their attacking moves and they were dangerously exposed at the back. They never came to terms with the game in midfield.

The Town were forced to make a last-minute change. Ken Goodeve picked up a mysterious stomach bug which also affected three of their party and he pulled out when the team reached the ground.

Alan Garner deputised and looked after Stuart Pearson, Hull's leading scorer, until Pearson moved to the wings to escape his attention.

Manager Harry Haslam has an unenviable task in trying to sort out last night's mess in time for Saturday's tough visit to Queens Park Rangers.

Broke down

Alan Slough was again sidelined last night when John Ryan was given the substitute's shirt. Slough, I think, must come into the reckoning for the weekend.

Early on, Jim Ryan, and particularly Aston, had the

beating of their backs. But Hull were generally too strong for the Town as most of their few attacks broke down on the edge of the box.

Fern had no success as the main striker. But that was due mainly to the poor service he received and Luton's hopes of Barry Butlin's services in the near future are slim.

Accurate

He has started light training, though Mr Haslam is unable to put a date on his return to competitive football. Luton definitely need a strong player up front. Butlin is the obvious answer.

The hard part to accept about the defeat was the fact that Hull were not a good side. They were made to look good by Luton's mistakes and, but for a couple of excellent saves by Barber, the Town would have slithered to their heaviest defeat of the season.

As soon as Hull scored their first goal in the 35th minute, Luton looked as though they were beaten. They failed to shrug off the deficit when the unmarked Houghton scored

from 25 yards and the goal provided Hull with the incentive they had been fighting for.

Six minutes before half-time Hull scored the second. Neill's accurate free kick found Kay and, because Garner and Faulkner failed to clear the danger, he headed powerfully past Barber.

Holme scored the third when he nudged Knighton's low cross under Barber's body in the 58th minute, and Knighton completed Luton's misery with the fourth after Greenwood had drawn Barber out of position nine minutes from the end.

Towards the end it was French, playing in midfield, who posed the biggest threat to Hull with energetic running. If his colleagues had matched his determination in the first half Luton may have received the breaks.

Booked

In the first half Hull forced eight corners. Luton managed one and added only another four after the break. That just about emphasised Hull's grip on the game.

72/73
**Rod Fern (9)
gets no change
out of the Hull
defence —
even with big
John Faulkner
(5) up in
support on the
right of the
picture**



To complete Luton's humiliation Shanks was booked for a foul on Holme in the 72nd minute.

Young Andy King comes into the reserve side who meet Millwall at Kenilworth Road in

this evening's Midweek League Cup semi-final tie.

He replaces Alan Garner who played last night. Team:

Carrick; John Ryan, Litt, Moore, Price, O'Connor, Slough, Busby, King, Sparks, Hales. Sub: Bevis.

MATCH DETAILS

HULL CITY: McKechnie; Banks, Lord, Kaye, Neill, Knighton, McGill, Houghton, Pearson, Holme (Butler), Greenwood.

LUTON TOWN: Barber; Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jim Ryan, French, Fern, Hindson, Aston. Sub: John Ryan.

Goals: Houghton (35 mins), Kaye (39), Holme (58), Knighton (81).

Referee: Mr E. Jolly (Manchester).

Attendance: 5,278 (Hull's lowest of the season).

Receipts: £1,113.25.