

'KEEPER BREAKS RIBS

LUTON 'keeper Keith Barber was stretchered off midway through the second-half after saving at the feet of County's Mick Vinter.

He was rushed to Nottingham General Hospital, where it was confirmed he had two broken ribs.

But Barber's general condition is described as "good," and he was expected to be released within 48 hours unless further complications arose.

Despite being without their 'keeper for the final 20 minutes, Luton still had the class and goal-power to send County crashing to their heaviest defeat of the season.

The match was a disaster for County after their five-goal destruction of Fulham last week. They failed to overcome the handicap of losing skipper David Needham with a groin injury after only seven minutes.

Luton went in front four minutes before the interval and

by FRANK STEVENS

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never looked back. Alan West hit a fierce 25-yard drive that Eric McManus just reached, but West was there to hammer home the rebound.

County's enthusiasm waned when Luton stepped up the pace in the second half. Ron Fitcher and John Aston combined in a defence-splitting move, and Aston finished it off with his accurate left foot.

County folded completely as Luton broke clear, to grab two more goals in the last nine minutes.

McManus was at fault when he failed to hold a shot from Parquale Fuccillo, and substitute Jimmy Husband touched in a simple chance from three yards.

Three minutes later Luton defender Steve Buckley rubbed it in with a cracking 30-yard goal, and County were finished.

Luton had Fuccillo and Aston booked.



● DELIGHT: the ball is a blur on the extreme left as John Aston on the right hammers in the Town's second goal, with John Sims making a vain attempt to intercept and Ron Fletcher closing in ahead of the other Notts County defenders. 76-7