

# Chelsea crash to icy defeat

CHELSEA'S skilful march towards the First Division came to an undignified halt on a carpet of snow at Kenilworth Road last night. They were rocked by a Luton side who must have surprised themselves with the fluency of their game in such conditions.

Chelsea were never able to cope with Luton's simple, direct football or the treacherous pitch. The match was a nightmare for reserve goalkeeper John Phillips. Stepping out of the shadow of the injured Peter Bonetti he must have wanted to crawl away to a dark corner by the end.

He was beaten twice within the first 13 minutes as Luton poured through the uncertain Chelsea defence, and compounded his misery by conceding a penalty two minutes from time.

For once he appeared to be in control in his own penalty area but when Paul Price dispossessed him he pulled the full-back's legs from under him.

Steve Buckley struck the penalty past him to complete only the fourth but heaviest League defeat of the season for Chelsea.

## Wrong attitude

Disappointed Chelsea manager Eddie McCreadie believed the game should never have been played and told referee Clive White so before the kick-off.

'Our mental attitude was all wrong too. We always had an eye n the cnditions,' he said.

He may have been right about *his* team, but Luton manager Harry Haslam was

Luton ..... 4

Chelsea ..... 0

By JIM HOOLEY

nearer the truth when he suggested that Chelsea could hardly blame the pitch.

'We've been threatening to do this for a few games now. We beat them fair and square with football,' he said.

Luton made so light of the conditions that they skated ahead within 71 seconds through Pasquale and when the second goal came after 13 minutes it was no more than they deserved.

There was little to choose between the right-foot volley from Brian Chambers which gave Luton their vital early grip or their third from Jimmy Husband after 57 minutes which finally ended Chelsea's hopes of a revival.

When Alan West slipped the ball through into the penalty area Husband turned to crash a right-foot volley in off a post past the startled Phillips.

Only Ray Wilkins came anywhere near the composure of Chambers, West and Fucillo,