

UP TOWN

76/27

SORRY to mention it now, but on Friday you could have got 16-1 against Luton going up from the Second Division as champions. Sorry? Well, the surest bet tomorrow is that you won't have a snowball's chance of getting those odds again.

Not after the way Town went mad yesterday. Not after the way they slammed five past struggling Carlisle. Not after those once-generous bookies contemplate a spectacular run that has given Luton 23 points in 12 matches.

And all this from a team who started the season on the brink of bankruptcy, owing £750,000 in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with oblivion.

They've got it down to a modest quarter of a million now. And if Harry Haslam had invested a modest £15,000 on his team last week at 16-1, then Luton's worries would all be over.

The way Luton are going now, it would take an armoured division to stop their promotion surge.

Certainly it will take a lot more than Carlisle had to offer — even though they beat promotion rivals Bolton in midweek.

For Luton won this match by the length of the M1. They were never in trouble from the start even before Fucillo put them ahead when he ran

on to a through pass from Ron Futchner and stroked the ball into the net.

By half-time it was virtually all over as Ron Futchner laid on an action replay—but this time it was he who ran on to a pass from Faulkner and glided the ball in.

HONEST

Husband slammed the third, West hit No. 4—and three minutes after that Ross saved a penalty from Paul Futchner.

It looked as if he appeared to move before the ball was hit and honest Alan admitted: "I certainly moved too soon, but the ball was well struck and I'm glad I chose the right direction."

Not to worry. Luton were always going to win, and two minutes before

the end Aston hit a post and Ron Futchner had a shot blocked by Parker on the line.

But Aston made it up a minute from time when he claimed the fifth.

Said the bemused Ross: "It just doesn't make sense — we beat Bolton in midweek and lost today by five goals. We are really struggling now."

"But Luton — and I was with them several years ago — have a definite chance of promotion."

LUTON: Aleksio 7—Price 7, *FAULKNER 8, Futchner (P) 7, Buckley 7—Chambers 7, West 7, Fucillo 7—Husband 6, Futchner (R) 6, Aston 6.

CARLISLE: Ross 7—Carr 6, MacDonald 7, Parker 6, Bailey 5—Bonnyman (w'drawn), 5, Taite 5, McCartney 5, *MARTIN 8—McVitie 7, Rafferty 6. Sub.: O'Neill 6.

Ref.: R. Kirkpatrick 8.

By **JOHN ROSS** **Luton 5 Carlisle 0**