

SEVEN-GOAL LUTON SET FOR GLORY

77/78
By TREVOR WILLIAMSON

Luton 7 Charlton 1

JIMMY HUSBAND proudly carried out the match ball signed by his colleagues, after shattering an apology of a Charlton defence with four fine goals in Luton's biggest win since the mid-Fifties.

Harry Haslam, the Luton manager, expressed his delight more with the fact that it was a continuation of the fine performance which knocked Wolves out of the League Cup the previous Tuesday than the size of the victory.

From the opening minutes, Luton were quicker to the ball, more methodical and composed, and even with Heale, 18, making his debut in place of the injured Boersma, maintained their rhythm and found their men with passes long or short.

The midfield players, led by West, were in superb form. They swept the Charlton trio almost into obscurity, and the lithe Hill capped his display with a fine dipping shot for the third goal.

Charlton overwhelmed

There was no such verve from Charlton. Admittedly, it is difficult to whip up enthusiasm when you are five goals down, but even before that point was reached they never really looked like making a fight of it.

Aleksic, in the Luton goal, was a bystander after the opening burst, until Flanagan, who had scant service, beat him with a penalty in the closing minute.

Luton, on this form seem set for honours but they will have to maintain their impetus throughout the promotion marathon. As for the ton, their dismal showing brought a vow from coach Harry Cripps: "It will never happen again."

Luton Town.—Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Fuccillo, Faulkner, P. Fatcher, Husband, Hill, R. Fatcher, West, Heale.

Charlton Athletic.—Wood; Curtis (Gritt, 79min), Warman, Campbell, Berry, Tydeman, Powell, Burman, Flanagan, Peacock, McAuley.