

Goal avalanche crushes Saints

ENGLAND'S Peter Shilton must have thought he was back at Wembley—keeping goal for Turkey.

Brilliant Luton gave him the biggest stuffing of his career just days after his record 74th cap.

This was the most dazzling First Division performance I've seen for years—and to think Luton aren't even on the short list for the so-called Super League.

Even when Luton were not banging goals past Shilton they had him tumbling around his goal like Michael Crawford on the West End stage.

But Shilton wasn't the sickest man on the pitch. That was Southampton's Cockerill, who almost joined Luton instead of going to the Dell.

What fun he could have had alongside Stein, Harford, Nwajiobi and Hill, Luton's one-touch masters.

Preece on the wing is a bundle of laughs, too, though he mostly sets up the punchlines for his mates.

Stein finished off a terrific hat-trick with a last-minute penalty—and must have gone home unhappy. He should have had five at least.

Misery

One stunning volley was brilliantly touched over by Shilton and another chip just cleared the bar.

Nwajiobi started things off with a shot from just inside the penalty box.

And Shilton was left with less support from his back four than that Turkish 'keeper as Stein and Hill made it 3-0 in just over half an hour.

Stein started off the second half in the same scoring mood and Preece, who had obviously tired of setting everybody else up, finally helped himself to a goal.

Substitute Daniel had only been on a few minutes when he joined in the fun by slipping one under Shilton's body.

The last-minute penalty gave Stein the chance to smash one into the top corner with Shilton shaking his head in misery and disbelief.

The nearest Shilton got to Stein was when they shook hands at the end.

Stein, who got the match ball to go with his other 28th birthday presents, said: "I don't think Shilton could believe it.

By **ROY COLLINS**

LUTON 7 SOTON 0

"We've been playing some great football this season but that topped it all.

"Ricky Hill and I had planned to leave the club but the fun element made us stay. I could have joined three other clubs but what's a few extra quid compared to playing with this team?"

Shilton didn't want to discuss his performance saying only: "I can't remember whether I've let in seven before."

Masters

Southampton's manager, Chris Nichol, who used to play for Luton, did not blame Shilton. "It was just rank bad defending," he said. "My defenders badly let me down. I was always an honest player but there's a few who can't look me in the face right now,"

Nicholl has ordered his team in for extra training today, saying: "The players can't use the plastic pitch as an excuse and I'm not going to wither."

Luton manager David Pleat was left almost speechless by his team. He had only one word: "Superb."

The saddest statistic of the day was the crowd of just under 9,000. What's wrong with the people of Luton if they don't want to watch a team like this?

LUTON: Sealey 7, Breacker 7, Foster 8, Donaghy 7, Thomas 7, Hill 8, Nwajiobi 7, Nichlas 7, Preece (withdrawn) 8, Harford 8, *STEIN 9. Sub: Daniel.

SOUTHAMPTON: Shilton 5, Baker 4, Wright 5, Bond 5, Dennis 5, Lawrence 5, *CASE 6, Armstrong 5, Townsend 5, Moran 5, Cockerill 5.

Ref: C Downey (Hounslow) 7.