

FIRST DEFEAT

Aston Villa 2 Luton 1

ROCK bottom Villa stung Hatters with two goals that sandwiched the half time interval.

And as Luton slumped to their first defeat under new management, John Moore's problems increased as he lost two players through injury.

Luton, unbeaten in their opening three games, were unchanged for last night's visit to Villa Park.

Villa, in contrast to Luton's promising start to the season, had lost their first three and were thankful to recall striker Garry Thompson after injury.

The game started in lively fashion, with Villa taking the early initiative.

Luton's first real chance came after five minutes, when Johnson's through ball found

Wilson, but the free-scoring midfielder shot meekly wide.

Blair left the field for treatment after falling awkwardly and after five minutes was replaced by Kerr.

Thompson was booked for a late challenge on Foster.

Villa were beginning to take control. Dorigo had a fierce swerving shot saved by Sealey and then the Luton keeper performed heroics to keep out a header from Thompson.

A poor ball from Foster ended in a booking as the Luton skipper pole-axed new

By **GRAHAM PUNTER**

England star Steve Hodge.

Twice within seconds Daley was frustrated by Sealey's agility.

But in stoppage time in the first half a long crossfield pass by Stainrod found Kerr on the right. The Villa sub cut in, held off Donaghy and rifled the ball low past Sealey.

Tim Breacker, injured in a first half clash with Garry Thompson, failed to appear for the second half and substitute Marc North took his place at left back.

The second half was just 50 seconds old when Luton's problems increased. A poor clearance by Foster enabled Daley to whip over a cross, which Kerr met at the far post, to slot Villa into a 2-0 lead.

A brief rally by Luton saw Foster have a good header well saved and Stein's tame chip waste a free kick.

Substitute North went down and after prolonged treatment had to be stretchered off.

Moments later Daley



● Scorer — Stein.

thumped the crossbar and there were more problems for the Hatters when coach Ray Harford was lectured by referee Kevin Breen for touchline coaching.

Breen turned next to manager Moore, who appeared upset at the time it had taken to provide a stretcher for North.

As the game grew more ragged Elliott and Hodge were booked for dissent, incensing the 13,122 crowd.

Brian Stein provided a glimmer of hope for Luton, in the 78th minute, when his header from Hill's cross, found the net.

ASTON VILLA — Poole, Keown, Dorigo, Evans, Elliott, Blair, Hunt, Stainrod, Thompson, Hodge, Daley. Sub: Kerr.

LUTON — Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, B. Stein, Newell, Wilson, Nwajiobi. Sub: M. North.