

Pathetic Charlton

86/87 Charlton 0 Luton 1

CHARLTON'S chances of avoiding relegation after only one season back in the First Division nosedived when top scorer Jim Melrose cried off with a virus infection just before the kick-off.

Manager Lenny Lawrence brought in Robert Lee, 21, to deputise but the youngster had a nightmare of missed chances.

Nothing went right for Charlton. Referee Jim Borrett even refused them a penalty when Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey bundled unhappy Lee off the ball.

Unlucky Charlton? Not really. Lack of finish has been their problem all season. They have scored only 40 goals in 40 League matches. Not good enough for survival.

Luton had half a dozen attacks at the most, and scored from one of them in the 87th minute.

Mick Harford was the man on target after good work by young debutant Gary Cobb, 18, and David Preece.

Luton strolled through the game as if they had nothing to prove, although Mal Donaghy was a master-mind in defence, specially after Jim Breacker had been carried off with a badly twisted knee just before the interval.