

Keegan gives credit

KEVIN KEEGAN gave the best summing-up of a night at St. James's Park when the dismal away record continued, despite a lot of bright spots in the Town's performance.

He spoke of Newcastle being carried along on 'a tide of emotion' as they delighted a big crowd by taking their opening run to four wins out of four. It became a club record of five at Bristol Rovers three days later as Newcastle, with a huge squad, confirmed their promotion credentials.

Took a battering

"A lot of things I saw in our team excited me," said the manager.

"But Luton deserve credit: they took a bit of a battering, but they wouldn't lie down, and it's not doom and gloom for them.

"I thought the 2-0 lead at half-time flattered us, but in the second half, when we turned on some very good football, we didn't get the reward we deserved. But the result was right in the end."

Bloodied but defiant skipper **Trevor Peake** embodied a gutsy Town display on a ground where they have not won a league game for 54 years. He played on, swabbing a nasty mouth gash with a sponge, and was one of the defensive heroes.

Another was **Andy Petterson**, who made

NEWCASTLE UTD 2 LUTON TOWN 0

some amazing saves when Newcastle gave his goal a tremendous pounding for a ten-minute spell early in the second half.

The match was not so much as Luton Town losing: Newcastle were a superb team, as good as anything I have seen for a long time.

The Town held out for 35 minutes, but once Lee Clark had scored the first goal the travelling fans knew that was the end of the contest. David Kelly got the second, at the end of a brilliant move down the left as **Des Linton** was by-passed, and once more there was little sign that the Town could hit back with a goal of their own.

Third midfielder hurt

They were not helped by injuries, with **Chris Kamara** and **Ceri Hughes** out before the kick-off, and **Jason Rees** being carried off seven minutes after the break with a twisted knee. Fortunately it was not serious, and he continued his good form three days later against Tranmere.

Scott Oakes came the nearest to breaking the away goals duck, with a shot which Tommy Wright misjudged.

The ball trickled against a post and was cleared. Newcastle, with their passionate crowd behind them, were never in similar trouble again.

The match details

LUTON TOWN: Petterson; Linton, Salton, Peake, Dreyer; Rees (Campbell 52 mins), James, Oakes, Preece; Claridge, Gray. Other sub: Johnson.

NEWCASTLE: Wright; Venison, Scott, Howey, Ranson; Carr, Clark, O'Brien, Sheedy; Peacock, Kelly. Subs: Quinn and Brock, not used.

GOALS: Lee Clark, 36 mins, from a through-ball by Liam O'Brien, and after Andy Petterson blocked his first attempt; David Kelly, 44 mins, tap-in after brilliant work down Newcastle's left flank by Gavin Peacock and Kevin Sheedy.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town three saved, four wide and one hit a post; Newcastle 12 saved and four wide. Corners: 8-5 to Newcastle.

REFEREE: John Kirkby, Sheffield. Did very well not to be pressurised by the partisan home crowd.

BOOKED: Darren Salton of the Town and Gavin Peacock of Newcastle, both for fouls.

ATTENDANCE: 27,054 — Newcastle's lowest of the season!

ENTERTAINMENT: A cracking match, with Newcastle playing some superb football and the Town battling all the way to try to contain it and the roaring passion of the crowd.