

Pembridge leads the slaughter

92/93 (PAC)

LUTON'S failure at home to Derby was not so much a thrashing as suicide by every method available.

Mark Pembridge, sold by Luton to Derby for £1.2million, scored the hat-trick which broke their back; half a dozen yobs directed long and loud abuse at Luton chairman David Kohler; and a steward threatened physical violence to two reporters trying to interview the man of a 5-1

KEIR RADNEDGE
sees the Derby lambs
turn into proper Rams

knockout. The saddest conclusion, however, is that very few people beyond Luton's own, tight, football community, care very much. Luton lost a huge amount of sentimental support in their misguided war on away fans and the stigma of the unpopular 1980s

stays with them. In such circumstances, Derby were the worst possible opponents, with a record of 11 victories on the road, compared with only eight at home.

In the third round, Derby struggled to beat Stockport 2-1 at home. They were tentative, slipshod and aimless.

But, at Kenilworth Road on Saturday, the lambs turned back into Rams and although Paul Telfer fired Luton into

an early lead, Derby's alacrity on the break ripped their defence to shreds.

Pembridge was involved in everything. He had an early foot in the move which led to Craig Short's 29th-minute equaliser; he scored the next three himself — one in the five minutes added for first-half injury time — and started the move from which Marco Gabbiadini scored No.5 with nine minutes remaining.

Luton manager David Pleat led the praise for Pembridge. 'He's one of the very best players I've sold — and I've sold an awful lot,' he said.

Luton Town: Chamberlain; Dreyer, James, Johnson, Hughes, Peake, Telfer, Benjamin (Harvey 72min), Rees (Oakes 62), Gray, Preece.

Derby County: Sutton; Kavanagh, Forsyth, Short, Wassall, Pembridge, Johnson, Kuhl, Kitson, Gabbiadini, Gouloze (Micklewhite 82).

Referee: P Harrison (Oldham).