



AGONY: Hull players walk towards the halfway line after Luton's third goal and (inset) fans head for the exit after the killer blow

Pictures: Dan Rushall

MOLBY'S PRIDE 'HURT' BY CITY

By **JOHN FIELDHOUSE**
HULL CITY REPORTER

HULL CITY'S new boss Jan Molby today blasted his players after their humiliating 4-0 defeat against Luton Town at Boothferry Park and admitted it was a performance he would never forget - for all the wrong reasons.

City fans were heading home long before Steve Howard completed his hat-trick for the happy Hatters in the last minute and Molby said he did not blame the black-and-amber faithful for their exodus.

The Dane, in charge of the Tigers for the first time, vowed to make sure there would be no repeat of Saturday's debacle next season. He also warned his under-fire players that he would have every justification for changing the entire team for tomorrow's visit to Rochdale.

Molby said: "I don't blame the fans for leaving earlier. If I'd paid money to have watched that I'd have done the same. I don't think disappointed really described how I felt.

"We can spend all day talking about how good Luton were but that doesn't concern me. We won't be playing Luton next year - and you can see why - and it's certainly a benchmark in terms of how good we need to become.



BIG CONCERNS: Jan Molby

"The biggest worry is that we are in a worse shape than I thought. Injuries did not help. We worked with what we had available but that's not why we've lost. We've lost because there are a lot of things fundamentally wrong.

"I knew it was going to be a hard job - but perhaps not this hard. There again, if things had been going well you wouldn't have needed a new manager.

"I'm here because I think I can turn it round. What I can assure the fans of is that a performance like Saturday - when we couldn't live with the pace of the game - will not happen next season.

"That was the biggest thing for me.

We could not sustain the pace of the game. They hurt us with their tempo and to be honest, they didn't really have to break sweat to do it. That's what really hurt."

Molby looks certain to make widespread changes at the end of the season but, in the meantime, he has to try and lift morale for what promises to be a daunting trip to play-off contenders Rochdale tomorrow.

City have now taken just four points from their last 10 games and scored six goals in that depressing sequence.

Ominously, Richard Sneekes (Achilles) and Kyle Lightbourne (shoulder) are the latest additions to a long casualty list.

Molby added: "The only positive from Saturday is that it's over. If I have to chop and change the side for the next match I don't expect any of the players to be knocking on my door to ask why.

"We had a couple of chances early on but that's not enough at home, is it? The second goal was obviously a killer and it was an horrendous defensive mix-up.

"I wouldn't blame the marking for the first goal but we allowed the lad far too much space to get in a cross. Once he'd got in a cross of that quality, it was near impossible to defend.

"I thought we started the second half better. We hung on and we had a big crowd behind us but we were not good enough to maintain anything. Then, Luton kicked on again and

that's what I mean about not matching their tempo. They punished us and we could not stay with the game. Four was bad enough but they could have scored more if they had wanted.

"Hand on heart, can any of the players say they deserve to play tomorrow - apart from Ben Petty who tried his hardest in midfield and showed a great deal of enthusiasm. 'Holty' (Andy Holt) and David Norris did okay when they came on. Theodore Whitmore gives us some quality although there are other aspects of his game which aren't suited to the Third Division."

Molby went on to admit the Luton shambles - and last Saturday's home defeat against Darlington - had already influenced him in his planning for next season regarding which players he wants to keep.

He added: "I will be making decisions based on Saturday. I can't ignore a performance like that and I never will.

"I've said to the players that they have got to try and get their heads up. We can't do anything about what happened. Whatever we do at Rochdale it will still be Hull 0, Luton 4. We've got to learn from it.

"There are always performances in any manager's career that you will remember. I won't forget Saturday. We've just got to make sure that never happens again."

● 'We deserved it': Page 21

● Match report: Pages 26 & 27