Hull 0 Luton 4 STEVE HOWARD

HEROIC HATTERS SET A RECORD

STEVE Howard fired a hat-trick as Luton won their 12th successive game to go top of the Third Division on goal difference with 4-0 victory over Hull.

The Tigers were outplayed after a promising start when Richard Sneekes' free-kick was brilliantly blocked by Town keeper Carl Emberson and a Nicky Mohan header was cleared off the line by Emerson Boyce.

Howard headed his 21st goal of the season midway through the half and Dean Crowe scored the second just before the break.

Luton cruised through the second half and Howard added two more goals.

Hull failed to impress in Jan Molby's first game in charge and have won only one of their last 10 games.

Luton boss Joe Kinnear described his side's 4-0 win over Hull, which

sent the Hatters to the summit of the Third Division, as "magnificent."

A hat-trick from Steve Howard and a strike from Dean Crowe confirmed a club record 12th consecutive league win to keep up the heat on title rivals Plymouth.

Kinnear said: "We're on a fabulous run at the moment and we are possibly the most in-form team in the country.

"It was always going to be a game where Hull were going to put in an extra 10 per cent, but anyone who takes us on at the moment knows they will be in trouble, and we played some great football.

"At the moment it's still out of our hands, but all we can do is win our last two games and hopefully that will be enough for us."

New Hull boss Jan Molby said: "I knew that not all was well, but I didn't know that it was as bad as this result has shown us to be."