

DIRE TIMES: LUTON TOO CLASSY AS DEBTS PILE UP FOR DOWIE'S BOYS

Thorpe swoops to end Oldham's run

OLDHAM	1
Holden (4)	
LUTON	2
Fotiadis (33), Thorpe (58)	

By Clive Barlow

OLDHAM have had plenty to think about in the last 48 hours.

First they were left reeling from the bombshell that they were facing massive debts and fighting for survival.

Now they have been beaten for the first time in 10 games.

But boss Iain Dowie insisted: "I don't think what has happened got to the players and there are no excuses."

Dowie, who began his career with Luton, added: "The goals we gave away were very poor and to be fair to them they were better than us for long periods."

"For 15 minutes we passed the ball well and dominated but then it became scrappy."

"They handled our forwards well and some of the things we did were chronically bad."

"But we have only lost one in 10 which is a record I would have happily taken a few weeks ago".

The Latics, without seven players through injury or suspension, stunned the visitors by taking the lead after just four minutes.

Defender Dean Holden, just back from knee surgery, broke into the box and fired home his second goal in as many games.

But Luton bounced back to level in the 33rd minute. A clever ball out of defence from Aaron Skelton picked out Andrew Fotiadis.

The in-form striker cleverly drew keeper Les Pogliacomi before driving the ball between his legs to make it four goals in his last four outings.

The home side continued to come under growing pressure and it was no surprise when Luton snatched the lead in the 58th minute. Defender Fitz Hall failed to clear a corner from Steve



HOTSHOT HOLDEN: Dean Holden, right, put Oldham Athletic ahead with his second goal in as many games

Robinson which allowed Chris Coyne to head the ball back into the path of Tony Thorpe who lost no time shooting into the net through a packed defence.

Beaming Luton boss Joe Kinnear

said: "It was a well deserved win and we did it without bringing our best squad because of injuries."

"The boys who came in to replace the regulars did a very good job. It is all credit to us that we have beaten the

form team in the division on their own patch.

"We were always a threat on the counter and could have hurt them even more if our passing had been a little bit sharper."