

Oldham run is over

LUTON made it five wins in a row to end Oldham's nine-match unbeaten run in a 2-1 victory at Boundary Park.

They had to come from behind after the home side took the lead after just four minutes. Defender Dean Holden, who has only recently returned from injury, found the net with a right foot shot from 12 yards for his second goal in as many games.

Luton equalised in the 33rd minute when Andrew Fotiadis ran onto an Aaron Skelton pass to shoot through keeper Les Pogliacomini's legs, and the visitors grabbed the winner in the 58th minute.

Latics defender Fitz Hall was beaten to a Steve Robinson corner by Chris Coyne. His header fell into the path of veteran Tony Thorpe who made no mistake to shoot through a crowded defence.



02/03

Oldham 1

Luton 2

The home side threw everyone forward in a last ditch effort to find an equaliser in the dying minutes but the Hatters held firm for the win.

Oldham boss Iain Dowie refused to blame off-field pressures for the club's first defeat in 10 games.

The Latics have had plenty to think about in the last 48 hours, after it was revealed they were fighting for survival.

But Dowie insisted the home defeat was purely a case of losing to a better team.

"I don't think what has happened got to the players and they are no excuses," said Dowie.

"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 were without seven players through injury or suspension.

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."