

Holden's final blow to Hatters

OLDHAM ATHLETIC3

Sheridan (28), Zola (45), Holden (45)

LUTON TOWN.....0

BY JASON CARLYLE

LUTON slumped to their heaviest defeat of the season and a disappointed boss Mike Newall admitted; "We were poor from start to finish."

He added; "I couldn't see anything positive to take out of the game."

Injury-raveaged Luton had to make three late changes, but Newall insisted this was not an excuse.

"There are no excuses because we were bad collectively and individually. Nobody did themselves justice."

It was completely the opposite for in-form Oldham who stretched their unbeaten run to six games and their goal tally to eight in the last two outings.

They went in front in the 30th minute when the lively John Eyre was pulled back in the box and veteran John Sheridan scored from the penalty spot for the third

OLDHAM		LUTON
58	Possession %	42
10	Corners	7
12	Offsides	7
5	Fouls	9
1	Yellows	0
0	Reds	1
6	Shots On	1
7	Shots Off	5
0	Hit Woodwork	0

OLDHAM: Pogliacomi 6, Hudson 6, Clegg 5, Hall 6, Holden 6, Eyres 8, J Sheridan 7 (D Sheridan 64), Murray 6, Eyre 7 (Cooksey 74), Zola 7, Vernon 6 (Killen 71).

LUTON: Beckwith 5, Hillier 5 (Perrett 61), Davis 6, Coyne 6, Boyce 5, Brkovic 5 (Mansell 61), Hughes 5, Pitt 5 (Brill 70), Leary 5, McSheffrey 5, Howard 5.

time this season. The second goal came on the stroke of half-time.

David Eyres sent Dean Holden on a run down the left and his superb cross pulled defenders all over the place.

Newcastle's on loan striker Calvin Zola was able to out-jump the lot of them and head home his third goal in the last two games.

The third goal came two minutes into the second-half and the Hatters cover was again found wanting as Holden stole in on the blind side to volley home from close range.

Worse was to come for the visitors when they were reduced to ten men with 21 minutes to go.

Keeper Rob Beckwith was red carded for handling outside his area to deny a shooting chance to Oldham striker Scott Vernon.

Youth team stopper Dean Brill, 17, replaced outfield player Courtney Pitt to come off the bench for his league debut.

Newall added; "It is a stupid rule that keepers have to go off in those circumstances. I don't know what else they are supposed to do in situations like that."

Oldham boss Iain Dowie said; "We didn't start brightly and to be fair it was a little bizarre to be two goals up at half time.

"But once we got going there was no stopping us."