

SMASH-AND-GRAB Luton provided the ITV cameras with their desired shock as they sprung a surprise 2-0 victory at Spotland.

Stand-in keeper Shane Gore again shone between the sticks while striker Kevin Gallen was the hero at both ends as he headed the hero at both ends as he headed off the line just before half time before striking twice after the break to earn victory against the League Two high-fliers.

The Hatters once again rang the changes, making six alterations from the team that drew 3-3 with Rochdale in the original tie on Saturday.

Dale made just one change, injured keeper Kenny Arthur being replaced by 16-year-old debutant Danny Taberner – the youngest stopper in the club's history.

And the home side almost got off to a dream start when a long ball over the top was chased through by Tom Kennedy, but his stinging low drive was well saved.

The game started at a frenetic pace with a series of crosses from the hosts causing all kinds of problems.

And they twice went close on six minutes. Hall was just able to deflect Chris O'Grady's effort behind while Gary Jones blasted over as Dale put Luton under all kinds of pressure.

Town could hardly get a kick and the hosts again scythed through their defence on 18 min-

utes. Danger-man Chris Dagnall was the creator, but Gore saved with his legs as Rundle struck goalwards from a tight angle.

Having been completely outplayed, the Hatters managed an effort just before the half-hour mark but Andy Burgess' free-kick was straight at Taberner.

A defensive mistake then almost let the visitors in moments later when Craig Dawson under-hit his backpass to Taberner. Craddock did well to block his clearance but the ball didn't run kindly for the Town.

Luton lacked composure throughout the half and it was almost all one-way traffic with Dagnall and Rundle at the heart of everything.

Asafu-Adjaye had to be alert to clear a dangerous Rundle cross with five minutes of the half left, while Gore just about managed to turn a swerving effort from the winger round the post.

For all their pressure, clear chances for the Dale were few and far between, but they did come close with two minutes of the half left when Dagnall's firm close-range header looked in before Gallen popped up on the line to turn the ball over the bar.

And Dale continued the second half as they finished the first, coming within inches of taking the lead after just 20 seconds. Dagnall picked the ball up 30 yards and his rasping drive smacked the bar.

A terrible slip from White then allowed Dagnall a clear run on goal seconds later, but Gore was

again at his best as he turned the ball round his near post.

Some haphazard Dale defending then almost handed the Hatters lead on 50 minutes. Nicholls' corner caused all kinds of problems and, but for Rundle on the line, Dawson would have turned the ball into his own net.

It was the hosts, though, who continued to look the more likely to break the deadlock. Rundle curled over after getting the better of Howells and Joe Thompson glanced a glorious cross by Kennedy just wide from inside the six yard box.

Gore raced to Luton's rescue again on 55 minutes. Dagnall outpaced White to a header over the top but Gore was quickly off his line to produce another great stop.

Both teams then had appeals for penalties turned down before Luton snatched the lead out of the blue on the hour. Burgess' close control and composure on the left instigated the move and Craddock's byline pull-back found Gallen who stuck out a leg to force the ball home.

Rochdale continued to press and create half chances, but it was Luton who almost doubled their lead with a beautifully crafted move on 69 minutes. Neat passing between Nicholls, Adam Newton, Craddock and Jarvis opened up Dale's backline and the latter's cross was headed inches wide by veteran goal-getter Gallen.

The hosts committed hari-kari on 72 minutes when Tom Kennedy was robbed on the edge of his own



MAIN MAN: Keeper Shane Gore

Rochdale 0 (0) Luton Town 2 (0)

area by Gallen, but Rory McArdle threw himself in the way as the striker's effort looped just over the bar.

However, it was brief reprieve as Luton doubled their advantage from the resulting corner. Nicholls' delivery was flicked on at the near post by White and, although Taberner produced a fine one-handed save to deny Pilkington at the far post, Gallen was on hand to force the ball in.

Dale continued to look for a way back into the game with Jones firing a weak effort at Gore, Dawson heading over and Dagnall driving wide, but this time there was to be no Dale late show as the Hatters booked themselves a second round trip to League Two side Rotherham United.

Hatters rated

Shane Gore: 8.5 – A flawless show from the stand-in stopper with a number of fine stops.

Ed Asafu-Adjaye: 7 – Too loose in the first half, but a dogged performance on the left flank.

Jake Howells: 7 – Sucked in too often and didn't get close enough to his man. More effective in the second half.

Alan White: 7.5 – Won a large number of important headers and played a key role.

George Pilkington: 7.5 – Looked far better back in the centre of defence. Brought composure to the back line.

Rossi Jarvis: 6 – Lost on the right in the first half, but improved when he was moved into a more central role.

Andy Burgess: 6.5 – Not as involved as he would have liked, but his class and composure held to unlock Dale's defence.

Asa Hall: 6 – Got some important toe ends in and put himself about, but struggled against Dale's fluid style.

Kevin Nicholls: 6 – Not as mobile as he would have liked, but kept Town ticking.

Kevin Gallen: 8.5 – Pivotal at both ends. Cleared off the line before netting a pair of poacher's goals.

Tom Craddock: 7 – Lacked any decent service, but helped to craft the opening goal.

Adam Newton (sub): 6 – Made a nuisance of himself and gave the Hatters greater solidity.

Claude Gnagna (sub): 6 – More advanced role baffled him, but his commitment was faultless.

Ryan Charles (sub): 6 – Did well to run the balls into the corners.