

POMPEY ON THE ROCKS

Freak goal brings them nearer to relegation

By **FRANK MCGHEE**

Luton 1, Portsmouth 0

PORTSMOUTH'S position is desperate.

They dropped two points at Luton last night and so missed a great chance of lifting themselves from the "big drop" zone in the First Division.

Despite the freak goal that beat them, Pompey had only themselves to blame.

Luton should have won the match in the first half. Chance after chance was squandered with almost criminal negligence.

Broke Away

But at least Luton did have the chances. Pompey hardly ever served one up.

Then, after an hour, at last Luton scored.

Norman Uprichard, the Pompey goalkeeper, had positioned himself perfectly to save a long shot from centre forward John Groves.

But suddenly it swerved

in flight, bounced awkwardly, broke away from him and A. Brown ran through to pop it into the net.

It was Brown's first home goal, but it underlines the wisdom of Luton in buying him to keep them in the First Division.

Tragedy

My man of the match was Luton full back Les Jones.

Earlier in the day personal tragedy had struck him when his father died.

The club offered him the night off—but Jones insisted on playing, and snuffed out dangerous Gordon Dale, the Pompey left-winger.

As for Pompey . . . their



JOHN GROVES

His "googly" beat them.

defence was full of holes. Only centre half Jimmy Dickinson looked safe.

In attack they had no one to harness all the force and energy of centre forward Jackie Henderson.

New boy Jimmy Clugston, the Irish inside right, of whom manager Eddie Lever had such high hopes, hardly saw the ball.