

Groves googly shot spins wheel of fortune Luton's way

FREAK GOAL SINKS PORTSMOUTH

Luton 1, Portsmouth 0
PORTSMOUTH have been dogged by bad luck all this season. That, more than any other factor, accounts for their desperate position at the foot of the First Division table.

But last night, in the first half against Luton, it

By **FRANK MCGHEE**

looked as though the tide of fortune had at last turned in their favour.

Four times Luton were clean through with only goalkeeper Norman Uprichard to beat—yet it was still a goalless draw at half time.

In the ninth minute

Luton winger Mike Cullen, let through by a Jimmy Dickinson error, fired yards over the bar.

In the twenty-sixth minute inside right Allan Brown, normally a sure shot, hit a chance laid on by centre forward Johnny Groves well wide.

Two minutes later outside left George McLeod put in Luton's only accurate shot in the first forty-five minutes—but

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this time goalkeeper Uprichard made a wonder save.

The tale of misses continued in the thirty-fifth minute when right half Bob Morton shot wide.

Long-range

In between, Pompey had relied mainly on long-range shots, only one of which gave Luton goalkeeper Ron Baynham any difficulty.

He dropped a hot shot from right half Bill Albury on the line, but Bob Morton cleared.

When Luton did go ahead after an hour they owed it to a freak goal.

Swerved

Uprichard had positioned himself perfectly to save a shot from Groves. But suddenly the ball swerved in flight, bounced awkwardly and broke away from him.

Brown, following up fast, whipped it calmly into the net.

Peter Harris, Pompey's outside right, was the guilty party eight minutes later when he squandered a great chance of equalising by hitting the ball over the bar.