

THIS POMPEY GIMMICK DIDN'T FOOL LUTON

By HARRY DITTON

PORTSMOUTH 2, LUTON 2

THE obvious skill of Luton Town, rather too casually demonstrated at times, was just sufficient to measure up to Portsmouth's more rugged efforts at Fratton Park. But only just. Only by pulling back a deficiency of two goals did Luton salvage a point.

The numbers the Portsmouth forwards wore on their backs seemed to bear little or no relation to the positions taken up. As often as not Portsmouth had two outside-lefts and no outside-right, or vice-versa. If this gimmick was intended to bewilder Luton it did not work all that well. It requires quicker thinking, faster-moving ball players to employ such tactics successfully.

At the moment the Portsmouth attack does not appear to be made up of anything more vital than 100 per cent triers. Individually and collectively Luton looked, and undoubtedly were, the more talented team.

Saunders shot Portsmouth into the lead in eight minutes, picking

up a headed pass from Harry Harris to score brilliantly while on the half turn. The usually deadly Gordon Turner missed a sitter of a chance to equalise, and then, right on the interval Harris headed a splendid second goal for Portsmouth. In the process, Harris was so stunned that he had to receive attention.

The advantage Portsmouth had built by sheer honest endeavour never looked like being taken from them until 25 minutes from the end when Luton really did score a goal out of the blue. There had been a period of sustained pressure on Portsmouth's goal when suddenly left-back Ken Hawkes shot from at least 25 yards. As Uprichard went down, apparently certain to cover the shot, the ball swerved viciously away from him into the net.

Luton now stepped up the pace and, seven minutes later, Alan Brown headed home the equaliser following a corner. Portsmouth tried to make a comeback but the Luton defence held out in the face of a terrific hammering.

PORTSMOUTH: Uprichard 5; Rutter 5; Wilson 5; Phillips 6; Dickinson 7; Casey 7; Cutler 6; Newman 8; Saunders 7; Harris (H) 8; Barnard 7.

LUTON: Baynham 8; Dunne 7; Hawkes 8; Morton 8; Owen 8; Pacey 7; Bingham 7; Turner 6; Brown 6; Cummins 7; Adam 7.

REFEREE: B. M. Griffiths (Newport, Mon). **LINESMEN:** H. E. Stokes (London), E. L. Ross (London).