



● Southampton defenders Tom Traynor (No. 3) and Tony Knapp watch anxiously as 'keeper Tony Godfrey beats Luton centre-forward Gordon Turner in the air and punches clear at Kenilworth-road.

THREE-GOAL O'BRIEN HAS LUTON CHASING SHADOWS

Luton 1 Southampton 4: by GRAHAM BUXTON

GEORGE O'BRIEN, the lively Scot with a shrewd goal sense and a lethal shot, who did not shine when he was with Leeds, is the toast of Southampton this week-end.

Until he scored the first goal of his eventual hat-trick after 19 minutes, Southampton had looked as if they were pleased to remain on level terms against Luton's superior, if muddled, football.

The goal—a well-placed free kick by Tony Knapp and a header from Derek Reeves to O'Brien—transformed the Southampton team. Had Reeves really been in confident mood he would have had two goals soon afterwards.

A mistake by Walden brought the second O'Brien goal 11 minutes before half-time, and in the first seven minutes after the interval O'Brien scored again. Harry Penk finished the scoring with a crashing drive from the left wing.

Luton, blundering in defence and using poor tactics in attack, were scarcely in it, and a goal from Gordon Turner 14 minutes from the end, after Tommy McKechnie had hit a post, raised scarcely a cheer from the dejected supporters, who gave their team the slow handclap during the second half.

"We had a bad day," was Luton manager Sam Bartram's comment at the end. Luton lost mainly because they tried to play their football the hard way.

It began in the attack, where the forwards persisted in holding on to

the ball and invariably losing it against the sound, close-covering Southampton defence, in which Knapp did a great job in shutting out Turner.

Even the wingers, Walden and Jim Fleming, usually so progressive, fell into the trap of trying to run with the ball and made it a joy day for two capable full-backs in Davies and Traynor.

On the other hand, precision passing without any waste of time by the Southampton forwards cut the Luton defence to ribbons. There always seemed to be a Southampton player in the open space with time to give the ball a deft flick, and the Luton half-backs spent most of the afternoon chasing shadows.

Even though Bob Morton played well, the chief Luton weakness was in the middle line. John Groves seldom knew from where O'Brien would appear next, and Ronnie Cope, £11,000 signing from Manchester United, has yet to show that that financial outlay was justified.