



● Portsmouth centre-forward Ron Saunders wins a mid-air duel with Luton left-back John Bramwell to head his side's second goal at Fratton Park.

ANXIOUS LUTON SLIP AGAIN AS PORTSMOUTH HIT THREE

Portsmouth 3 Luton 1: by RAY COLLIER

LUTON slipped a little nearer the Third Division when they crashed at Portsmouth on the peat-covered Fratton Park pitch which had treacherous patches underneath. But the Luton defenders gave a tough display as they desperately tried to stave off yet another away defeat. Luton have won only one away game this season.

Players found it hard to turn on the surface but credit Luton for not allowing the livelier Portsmouth attack to gain the upper hand completely.

Luton goalkeeper Ron Baynham made some smart saves, but there were times when he was caught out of position, and both the Luton backs, Brendan McNally and skipper John Bramwell made goal-line clearances.

Portsmouth's approach work was quite constructive particularly from their inside forwards but they still need more target practice if they are to get the goals needed to keep them near the top.

Unhappy

Saunders had an unhappy time in the centre against Kerry and the forwards might have had greater success had they brought wingers Tony Barton and Dave Dodson more into the game.

Portsmouth's lack of success brought some anxious moments in the second half when they led 2-1 for Luton's Gordon Turner was always dangerous whenever he got clear. His wing partner, Harry Walden, gave Alex Wilson plenty to think about. But the Portsmouth defence covered well, with Harry

Harris particularly effective at right half.

John Armstrong, Portsmouth's new 25-year-old goalkeeper from Nottingham Forest, made a sound first appearance although he had little to do after the interval.

Portsmouth looked as if they were going to build up a big score when they rushed into a 2-0 lead in the first 18 minutes. Gordon fired in the first in the 14th minute when he placed the ball back into the net after Baynham had only fumbled a fierce drive from Harris. Four minutes later Saunders headed in the second from close range from a centre by McCann.

But Luton's hopes of at least a point were revived nine minutes later when Armstrong made his only mistake of the game. He had a 25-yard drive from Turner well covered but the ball spun out of his hands and over the line before he could regain it.

After their second-half flaws Portsmouth made amends two minutes from the end when McCann turned a beauty into the Luton goal.