

Luton still slipping

62/63

By MAX REESE

Portsmouth 3, Luton 1

LUTON, who have already skidded their way out of the Cup, lost this match partly because they found it harder than Portsmouth to keep their feet on a slippery surface that still had traces of peat.

Lornie, especially, was ineffective. But even Baynham, though he made one superb save from Dodson, often dropped the ball and the ponderous Kelly was frequently out of position.

Because Portsmouth squandered their chances and Turner had one flash of brilliance the game was theoretically in the balance until the 88th minute when McCann scored Portsmouth's third goal. But Luton were very lucky to survive for so long.

Magnificent shot

Portsmouth believe in keeping the ball moving and their policy has served them well over the past two seasons. But there is no need to be in a hurry all the time. The team's lack of tactical flair was illustrated again in this match by the way they were jolted by Turner's goal—a magnificent first-time shot from 25 yards which Armstrong reached but could not hold.

Two up in 20 minutes through Gordon and Saunders, Portsmouth had looked like building a huge score against a ragged and panicky defence. But their football lost its authority and polish.

Portsmouth were too anxious to restore the margin of safety and their game deteriorated into a mad rush, with chance after chance thrown away by hasty shooting.

Portsmouth : Armstrong ; Gunter, Wilson ; Harris, Snowden, Dickinson ; Barton, Gordon, Saunders, McCann, Dodson.

Luton : Baynham ; McNally, Bramwell ; McGuffie, Kelly, Pacev ; Walden, Turner, Davies, McKechnie, Lornie.