

By ROY PESKETT

Luton0 Sunderland ...3

SUNDERLAND are almost back in the First Division. Luton can have little hope of escaping the drop into the Third.

The entire Chelsea team, who watched the game, now know they have only a slender promotion hope.

They must win at Sunderland next Saturday, then beat Portsmouth at home to scrape up on goal average — assuming that Stoke manage two points or more from their three games.

TOP FIVE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Sunderland	41	20	12	9	84	54	52
Stoke	39	19	13	7	70	46	51
Chelsea ...	40	22	4	14	83	42	48
Huddersfield	41	17	14	10	63	47	48
Newcastle ...	42	18	11	13	79	59	47

Luton paid the full penalty for mistakes. Both backs made a slip—each time the ball was smacked into the net.

BOTTOM FOUR

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Grimsby ...	41	10	13	18	50	65	33
Luton	41	11	7	23	61	82	29
Walsall ...	40	10	9	21	49	86	29
Charlton ...	40	11	5	24	58	92	27

In the 22nd minute McNally missed Mulhall's cross, but half-retrieved the error by conceding a corner. Davison's perfectly placed kick was brilliantly headed in by Sharkey.

Straight after half-time Daniel tamely pushed the ball to Mulhall, who hit a low, swirling shot under the diving Baynham.

The final blow came five minutes from time. Sharkey, looking ten yards offside, chased a long clearance and shot home. He was played onside by Kelly, who was retying a bootlace just inside the field.

Beavers

Five minutes from half-time Davies streaked down to crack home a beauty, but was ruled offside. I thought he went past Hurley before picking up the ball.

Home fans showed their disgust when McKechnie was brought down in the area by Nelson, who, though he did not play the ball, conceded a corner—an extraordinary decision.

But Sunderland were certainly the better side. They seemed far more at home than Luton on a sandy beach surface.

Anderson and Herd worked like beavers, and used the ball far better than Luton's link men.

Strong, tall Hurley dominated the Sunderland defence, and he was helped by Luton's belief that the quickest way to score was to send the ball at skyscraper height into Sunderland's goal-mouth.

This was no help to Ron Davies, who was under scrutiny by at least six managers.

Luton. — Baynham ; Daniel, McNally ; Morton, Kelly, Bramwell ; Clapton, Turner, Davies, McGuffie, McKechnie.

Sunderland. — Montgomery ; Nelson, Ashurst ; Anderson, Hurley, McNabb ; Davison, Herd, Sharkey, Crossan, Mulhall.