

FINCHAM 'HOME' TO LEAD AGAINST UNITED

63/64

THERE was some dull football at London Road this afternoon, and in the first hour of their Third Division game with Luton, Posh could only get the ball into the net when Graham handled.

Luton fought hard for a share in the points, and always in the thick of the fray was local boy Gordon Fincham, the Hatters' skipper.

United: Duff; Singleton, Sissons; Cooper, Rankmore, Pearce; Moulden, Horobin, Dougan, Graham, McNamee.

Luton: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie; Walden, Riddick, McKechnie, Weir, Jardine.

Referee: Mr. A. W. Sparling (Grimsby).

Gordon Fincham, back in his home town, skippered Luton and won the toss. Posh kicked toward London Road and Morton had to kick away as a Singleton free kick floated into the penalty area.

Graham was prominent in a move with Moulden, but as he tried to centre, the inside forward slipped, and the ball went for a goal kick. Then Moulden sent a good pass down the right, but as Dougan chased it, he also slipped and the chance was wasted.

A good chance went astray when Moulden moved into the centre, and Dougan accepting Graham's pass put

Dougan stays

FIRST Division Ipswich Town were hoping that Peterborough United's Irish international centre forward, Derek Dougan, would have been leading their attack against Nottingham Forest this afternoon.

On Thursday they made an offer for Dougan, reported to be in the region of £35,000 but this has been turned down and Dougan remains a Peterborough player.

Commenting on a national newspaper story this morning that United are prepared to sell Dougan, manager Jack Fairbrother told the Evening Telegraph "That is not true. We do not want to sell Dougan, but obviously if someone came along with a very big offer we should have to give it the proper consideration."

a good cross into the goal-mouth.

Moulden failed by inches to get his head to the ball.

The greasy surface after two downpours, was making football difficult, and when Dougan put a pass back to McNamee, the winger slipped and much of the sting went out of his shot.

The first ten minutes was just about all Peterborough, with Luton so far being given no time or room to settle down.

A NEAR MISS

Luton's first attack came after 12 minutes, and after Rankmore had blocked Walden's centre, a cross shot from McKechnie beat Duff and went only inches outside the goal.

Dougan put a header just over the bar from Moulden's free-kick, after the centre forward had been brought down by Fincham.

Luton's attacks were few and far between, but when they forced two corners, Jardine twice put the ball behind the goal.

Dougan almost forced Baynham to drop a centre from McNamee, and when Pearce moved up to shoot through a crowd of players, Baynham dived and tipped the ball past the post.

Duff saved well from Walden after Sissons had missed a crossfield pass from McGuffie. When Moulden was fouled outside the area, Pearce collected Cooper's quick free kick, but put his shot over the bar.

Half-time:

United 0, Luton 0

United quickly forced a corner at the start of the second half, but again Dougan was off target with his header. A good through-ball from Horobin gave Dougan another chase, but

Fincham tackled him perfectly.

Graham Dispossessed Bramwell and broke away, but, after getting to the by-line, he miskicked and another move broke down.

So far this half Luton had not looked dangerous, but Walden went through the middle, and was stopped by Rankmore's sliding tackle. The referee awarded a free kick and McDuffie's vicious drive was stopped by Moulden.

DISALLOWED

Moulden continued after treatment, and as Posh went on the attack, it was fortunate for Luton that the linesman was on the spot.

United went on the attack, and as the ball bounced too high for him Graham jumped up and patted the ball forward with his hand before hitting the ball into the net.

The referee pointed to the centre, but then saw the flagging linesman, and gave a free kick.