



● A Peterborough defender leaps from the goal-line as 'keeper Nigel Sims gropes for the ball following a corner by Luton's Ray Whittaker at Kenilworth Road.

NEW MAN NIGEL SIMS FOILS LUTON'S PUNCHLESS ATTACK

Luton 1 Peterborough 1: by JACK PEART

LUTON, woefully short of finishing power, will probably blame Peterborough's latest capture former Villa goalkeeper Nigel Sims for their failure to beat a side with the worst defensive record in the Third Division. Sims made several first-class saves but Luton, with far more of the play, had neither the accuracy nor thrust to deserve more than one point from a game more distinguished for effort than craft.

Luton claimed too that centre-forward John O'Rourke was robbed of what would have been the winner midway through the second half when they had what seemed to me to be a perfectly good goal disallowed.

According to referee Rex Spittle, of Great Yarmouth, O'Rourke levered himself up on the shoulders of Peterborough centre-half Walker before head-glancing a lobbed free kick into the net.

On clear-cut chances alone, Peterborough should have won, for inside-right Moulden, who put them ahead after 10 minutes, missed two sitters from close range later in the first half.

But Posh, although the steadying influence of Sims gave the defence a more solid look, must tighten-up their covering, especially against the quick through ball down the middle.

It was this flaw that cost them the equaliser seven minutes after the interval, when Luton right half Dave Pacey hit a long pass into an open space on the edge of the penalty area.

Peterborough centre half Jimmy Walker or right-back Tommy Singleton should have cleared, but their hesitation allowed O'Rourke to run clear and slip the ball past the advancing Sims.

Sims had every reason to show his annoyance at this elementary

mistake, but Luton played right into the Posh's hands after this by overdoing the move instead of using the speed of wingers Dave Pleat, their most dangerous forward, and Ray Whittaker.

The one man who might have won this match for Peterborough, centre forward Derek Dougan, was in one of his more unpredictable moods.

True, he was up against a solid, uncompromising centre half in Gordon Fincham, the pick of the Luton defenders, but Dougan still produced occasional flashes of brilliant football that led to missed chances by his colleagues.

Peterborough skipper Vic Crowe was the most constructive halfback on view, even if he has lost a yard of speed, and it was largely due to his example that his team's passing was far more accurate than that of Luton.

Feeling crept into the game after Luton left back John Bramwell and Peterborough outside right Charles Barnes collided in mid-air.

Bramwell got a ticking-off from the referee, but it seemed to me that this was a complete accident as both players went wholeheartedly for a high ball.