Simpson beats centre-forward McKechnie to a ball kicked into the Gillingham goal area from mid-field and starts an attacking movement.

BURGESS BOOKED AT LUTON

By JOHN HICKNESSE

Luton 1, Gillingham 0

A SCRAMBLED goal by Riddick, the inside right, midway through the first half proved enough to give Luton a plucky, but extremely fortunate victory.

They would be lost by a street if Baynham, that aging but immaculate warrior, had not produced a superlative display of goalkeeping.

Played for the most part in pouring rain, this was a fierce, dirty but highly entertaining cup-tie.

From a spectator's point of view, that is: I would not expect McKechnie, the Luton centre forward to share the same opinion. In the first 35 minutes he was subjected to a fearsome softening up process by the Gillingham defence.

Much credit must go to referee Mr. Tinkler, that the match did not develop into a free-for-all. The second half, though it contained its quota of free kicks, was far more orderly and proceed from Gillingham a surprising amount of excellent football.

Farrall inspired

Most of it was inspired by Farrall, the ex-Preston and Everton wing half.

In the second half alone Rackstraw missed three open goals, Gibbs hit the bar and Farrall had a low hard drive kicked off the line by McBain. In between times Baynham leapt and dived with the agility of a 20-year-old to catch or divert everything that came his way.

The goal that won the day followed an equally remarkable save by Simpson, who made yards to turn over a rebounding drive by Riddick. But from the corner Riddick gained possession again, hurdled two intended body checks and scored in the corner.

Luton: Baynham; McBain, Jardine; Pacey, Caleb, Red; Pleat, Riddick, McKechnie, Rioch, Whittaker.

Gillingham: Simpson; Hudson, Hunt; Arnott, Burgess, Farrall; Newman, Gibbs, Green, Rackstraw, Meredith.

Referee: R. Tinkler (Boston).