

Polished Luton snap up chances

by HENRY WESTON

Port Vale 1 Luton 2

LUTON were convinced that something would turn up. And when it did—twice—they were ready to exploit their good fortune.

Jimmy Hill, playing his first game since signing from Everton, and player-manager Jackie Mudie did their best to bring order to the high-spirited chaos that reigned whenever Vale approached goal.

But their contributions were drained away by the finishing of promising moves, poor shooting and superb goalkeeping by Colin Tinsley.

Set against this was the polished approach of Luton, though content for the most part with a defensive posture, their smooth - running attack always had a hint of menace.

The work of wingers Graham French and Roy Whittaker was particularly dangerous, and centre forward John O'Rourke—the scorer of two hat-tricks in five games—needed no one to show him the way to go.

Mockery

Their first goal in the 48th minute was a mockery of Vale's laboured efforts.

Right winger French found O'Rourke, the centre forward turned the ball into a wide open space to the left of goal, and there was Whittaker striding through to pick his spot wide of goalkeeper Jimmy O'Neill.

Substitute Tony Richards, he came on after half-time in place of left half Roy Sproson, let in Luton for the second goal. O'Rourke stabbed the ball home from close range.

The irony for Vale came in the 87th minute when Jackie Mudie swept the ball out to left winger Brian Taylor who found Hill in the centre. The inside forward coolly beat Tinsley.

They could do it after all. But the point was strictly academic as Luton closed ranks around centre-half Alan Rivers.