

LUTON HOLD ON TO EARLY GRIP

Luton 2 Southport ... 0

On a frozen pitch, with the ball behaving unpredictably, both teams showed commendable determination and disregard for injury.

Luton held the upper hand throughout mainly because of a shock goal in 45 seconds by Read. French, the most accomplished footballer on the field, scored the second after 22 minutes.

Luton should have had more but the ball did not bounce kindly for them and they were often beaten by Southport's packed penalty area.

Molyneux, at centre-half, was well supported, but despite this and the brilliance of Reeves in goal, Luton should have won by a much bigger margin.

Luton Town.—Tinsley; Riddick, Jardine; Reid, Woods, Rioch; French, Read, O'Rourke, Harber, Whittaker.

Southport.—Reeves; Parker, Cairns; Peat, Molyneux, Barratt; Marshall, Alty, Russell, Spence, Smith.