

O'ROURKE GIVES LUTON POINTS

Luton 2, Hartlepoons 1

AT half-time it seemed unlikely that Luton would ever pierce the Hartlepoons' defensive wall, which allied to the heavy conditions, kept their lively forwards at bay.

Even the mercurial O'Rourke became bogged down in his efforts to break through, but helped the opposition when he intervened with his head to deflect a header by Rioch that was bound for the back of the net.

What with the spoiling tactics of the visitors and constant interruption of play by the referee's whistle, the first-half was much of a shambles.

First light on a gloomy scene was shed four minutes after half-time when O'Rourke embarked on an ambitious solo run at the end of which he rammed the ball past Green.

Seven minutes later O'Rourke scored with a finely-judged header and then the Luton supporters settled down to wait for the expected annihilation of the opposition.

But it did not happen—due in part to poor finishing but also to some fine defensive work by the visitors. Whittaker shot against a post and French had two great shots well saved by Green.

Then suddenly Hartlepoons broke free of their defensive shell and 17 minutes from the end Thompson gave them a fighting chance. But when the whistle sounded Luton, deservedly, were still in the lead.

Luton: Tinsley; Riddick; Jardine; Reid, Woods, Moore; French, Read, O'Rourke, Rioch, Whittaker.

Hartlepoons: Green; Grant, Drysdale; Ashworth, Gill, Storton; Wright, Thompson, Phythian, Fogarty, Bradley.

Referee: R. V. Spittle (Caister-on-Sea).