

Givens hits the winner

Luton 2, Portsmouth 1

THIS was not a display Luton will want to remember particularly. Although they won and just about deserved to do so—they did not inspire a great deal of confidence.

In the last ten minutes they allowed themselves to be pushed right back on the defensive, and it was as well that Read was in a confident mood.

Yet the early stages did not suggest that Luton would be struggling to hold on to an odd goal victory. They began with their usual flourish, going ahead through John Ryan in the seventh minute.

Some of the shine was taken off that goal when McCann, who began his professional career at Luton, equalised with a solo effort. From then on clear-cut chances were at a premium, with Portsmouth's defence sparing themselves not at all in the tackle.

Speculative shot

It had the effect of keeping top Luton strikers MacDonald and Givens safely away from the danger area, although it was the latter who won the match five minutes after the interval. The courageous Milkins had the speculative shot covered until it struck someone and flew off at a tangent.

To Portsmouth's credit they had the strength and determination to mount a rally of such intensity in the last two minutes that there were times when the competent Luton defence was content to find touch.

Both sides used their substitutes, Travers coming on for Ley who had to have three stitches in a gash over his right eye, and Moore, feeling an old injury, gave way to Bannister for the second half.

Luton: Read; John Ryan, Slough; Hoy, Nicholl, Moore; Jimmy Ryan, Givens, MacDonald, Keen, Busby. **Sub.:** Bannister.

Portsmouth: Milkins; Hand, Ley; Piper, Blant, Monks; McCann, Trebilcock, Hiron, Bromley, Jennings. **Sub.:** Travers.