

A DEFLECTED winning goal by Don Givens sums up Luton's luck.

It came from a 30-yard drive, which deflected off Macdonald and rose over the head of 'keeper Milkins who had crouched to gather the ball.

Luton were lucky they have a player of Mike Keen's calibre. He held them together and was always ready to initiate the attack. What a pity so much of his approach work was wasted.

He made enough chances for Luton to have tied it up handsomely, but their defence was so full of holes that there were times when almost everyone was in the goal area helping out.

Nicholl was often stretched to cover up the gaps left by John Ryan and Moore before he was replaced by Bannister for the second half. Moore was obviously not up to it after his recent injury.

The close marking of sharp-shooter Macdonald took some of the edge off the Luton attack, which was reduced to frustration with the once-enterprising Busby going to pieces.

Brilliant

Much of this was due to the brilliant goalkeeping of Milkins. His courageous dives at the feet of Macdonald stopped at least two certain goals and on one occasion he took a heavy blow on the neck which held up play.

With almost five minutes of injury time, the home fans, fearing that victory might be snatched away, were whistling loudly. And what an escape when Read saved from Hiron just before the end.

Luton started well, with John Ryan scoring early on from a free-kick. This was wiped out within a minute

Luton 2
Portsmouth 1
By BILL EDWARDS

by ex-Luton player McCann, who went through on his own.

That should have taught the Luton defence to tighten up, but they took little heed and ran into trouble. Givens' lucky goal saved the day.

LUTON: Read 6; Ryan (J) 6, Moore (withdrawn) 5, Nicholl 7, Slough 6; Hoy 5, *KEEN 8; Ryan (J) 6, Givens 6, Macdonald 7, Busby 6. Sub.: Bannister 6.

PORTSMOUTH: *MILKINS 8; Hand 6, Munks 6, Blant 7, Ley (Inj.) 6; Piper 7, Bromley 7; McCann 6, Hiron 6, Trebilcock 6, Jennings 6. Sub.: Travers 6.

Ref.: J. Thacker (Searborough) 6.