

Givens' in-off shot gives Luton the edge

By JOHN NORMAN
Luton 2, Portsmouth 1

THIS WAS a close enough match to have the Luton fans whistling for the finish as the second half dragged into five minutes of injury time.

After looking to be out of the hunt, Portsmouth netted a series of

assaults in the last 15 minutes and probably consider themselves unlucky not to draw.

But they did not finish strongly enough to make the best use of some neat approach work.

Luton were worth their success, even if they were

some way below their best.

This was partly due to the tough tackling of the Portsmouth defence, with Malcolm MacDonald coming in for special attention.

Portsmouth goalkeeper John Milkins was twice in action early on, and was beaten in the seventh minute by right-back John Ryan, who crashed a great drive past him from a couple of yards outside the penalty area.

Luon's jubilation was cut short a minute later when Albert McCann who used to play for them—embarked on a solo run which led to the Portsmouth equaliser.

Unlucky

Portsmouth were unlucky to lose George Ley just before half-time with a gash over his right eye that needed three stitches. Mike Travers substituted.

However, Portsmouth's worst piece of luck came five minutes after half-time when Luton scored the winning goal.

From about 25 yards Don Givens tried a speculative shot that struck a Portsmouth player in front of goal and flew into the net.

LUTON.—Read, Ryan (John), Slough, Hoy, Nicholl, Moore, Ryan (Jimmy), Givens, MacDonald, Keen, Busby. Sub: Bannister

PORTSMOUTH.—Milkins, Hand, Ley, Piper, Blant, Monks, McCann, Treblecock, Hiron, Bromley, Jennings. Sub: Travers.