

Luton truth stranger than fiction

Luton 3, Portsmouth 2

IF the happenings of the second half were published in a novel they would be regarded as beyond the bounds of possibility.

At the end of 45 mins, Luton seemed to have no hope of securing two badly needed points—they had been outplayed by a stylish quick-moving Portsmouth team who ignored the modern fetish of dispensing with orthodox wingers.

Instead they used Piper and Jennings in the old-fashioned way and this, combined with midfield superiority and a remarkable degree of indecision by the Luton defence, put them well on top.

In fact, the two goals obtained by Reynolds in the second and 39th minutes were not nearly the true measure of the command they held. Had their lead been doubled there could have been no justifiable complaint from Luton.

However, Luton apparently decided that the situation could scarcely be worse and that they had everything to gain and nothing to lose by going into all-out attack. This they did in the second half, introducing Halom for Busby and thus leaving themselves with no insurance against the injury that happened almost immediately to Givens.

Two goals

With damaged knee ligaments he was off the field at the height of the fight back which brought goals by Keen and Hindson inside the first quarter of an hour.

Pluckily, he came back to limp on the wing and to complete the fairy story had much to do with the winner that came three minutes from the end. Forgetting for a moment his pain, he crashed the ball against a post and Anderson collected the rebound to score the winner with a shot that was deflected by Munks.

Hard luck on Portsmouth who had looked so polished earlier but they were thrown out of their stride by the almost frenzied efforts of Luton.

Luton: Read; Ryan, Slough; Keen, Nicholl, Moore, Anderson, Court, Busby, Givens, Hindson. Sub: Halom.

Portsmouth: Standen; Smith, Ley, Hand, Youlden, Munks; Piper, Reynolds, Trebilcock, McCann, Jennings. Sub.: Hiron.

Referee: C. Nicholls (Plymouth).