

LUTON COMEBACK

SINKS POMPEY

LUTON 3 PORTSMOUTH 2

LUTON fought back after a disastrous first half to grab two points from Portsmouth at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

The Town were a goal down after two minutes and slipped further

just before the interval when Reynolds scored his second goal.

But they came back fighting after the break. And Keen and Hindson soon put Luton back in the game.

And it was Anderson who finally sunk Portsmouth with a goal just two minutes from the end.

The Luton pitch looked in good condition despite a heavy down-pour only an hour before the start. The match was televised by Anglia TV.

Portsmouth's regular goalkeeper John Milkins reported sick with a tummy upset yesterday and was not fit to travel.

So back into the side came former Luton goalkeeper Jim Standen who made his fourth first team appearance of the season.

Luton were unchanged from the side that won at Blackpool last week and Vic Halom took over from Wainwright as substitute.

Luton kicked off facing the Kenilworth Road terrace, but it was Portsmouth who were first to show. A good through ball from Jennings was aimed for the nippy Trebilcock who who was caught fractionally offside.

Smart

Then Piper and Reynolds attacked from the right and Nicholl did well to concede a corner.

From this, a short one, Portsmouth took an unexpected and unusual lead.

The crowd was stunned into silence. Keen tried to clear from a goalmouth scramble but his effort struck the leg of Reynolds and bounced back underneath the body of the astonished Read and into the net.

With this setback in mind there was tension in the Luton goalmouth a couple of minutes later when Moore was forced to concede a corner after a struggle with Reynolds. Trebilcock put the flag kick right into the centre but Givens headed clear.

After eight minutes Anderson had the chance to equalise in Luton's first raid. But a sharp cross from Hindson on the right caught him unaware and he missed the ball completely from close in.

Portsmouth were soon back on the offensive and McCann

brought a brilliant diving save out of Read with a fierce ground shot.

Portsmouth played some delightful football in the early stages and the footwork and passing of Piper and Trebilcock brought applause from the Luton crowd.

A grand bit of football from Hindson produced a good pass to Anderson but when he tried to turn the ball inside for Givens he was yards out and the pass was easily intercepted.

And then a Keen free kick to Slough was wasted when the full-back hammered the ball aimlessly over the crossbar.

Portsmouth went further ahead in the 39th minute. And nobody was really surprised. After some fine football former Luton man McCann dribbled cleverly into the heart of the Luton defence and passed to Reynolds who smashed his second goal past Read.

Luton's best first half effort came from Anderson who nearly surprised Standen with a hard shot, but the Portsmouth goalkeeper got a hand to the ball and it was swept quickly away for a corner.

HT: Luton 0 Portsmouth 2

In a desperate effort to put some life back into the attack, Luton began the second half with substitute Halom playing in place of Busby.

And with the half only a minute old it began to look as if this could have been a rash



Anderson is beaten by Portsmouth keeper Standen as Keen follows up

VERDICT

By ROGER DUCKWORTH



TWICE - Eire International Don Givens had to leave the Luton field injured this afternoon. But he had the luck of the Irish. For each time he went off Luton scored.

And with just two minutes to go Anderson snatched the winner.

What a fight back this was by the Town. Two goals down at half time, they staged one of the fights of their lives early in the second half to snatch two goals in five minutes and a share of the spoils.

In the first half they had taken a battering from the big guns of

Portsmouth and a bit of a roasting from their own crowd for some ineffective football.

Luton's build-up was pedestrian when balanced with that of the visitors who delighted the home crowd.

Under-23 international Piper and centre-forward Trebilcock laid foundations for the two-goal lead. Reynolds collected the goals.

The first was a gift in the second minute when a clearance from Keen from the Luton goalmouth struck Reynolds and rebounded into the net.

Their second was a cracker from the same player when he gave Read no chance. And it looked as if Luton were lined up for their third successive home defeat.

At half-time Halom was brought on for Busby and Luton looked in further trouble when Givens was hurt.

But after a series of corners, skipper Keen banged in Luton's first and five minutes later Hindson hit a golden goal from 25 yards which Standen, a former Luton player, had no chance whatever of stopping.

MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

LUTON: Read, John 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.

REYNOLDS (Portsmouth) 2mins 39mins

KEEN (Luton) 52mins

HINDSON (Luton) 57mins

ANDERSON (Luton) 88mins

Attendance: 9,910



Anderson in the thick of things again