

# Stock's shocks do the trick for Luton

Luton 3, Portsmouth 2

By BOB MORLEY

**WHAT** a turn-around! And all because of a few words by Luton boss Alec Stock at half-time: "If we are going to lose, let's go down fighting."

Portsmouth had completely dominated and outclassed pathetic, dejected Luton. They led 2-0 from well-taken goals by Reynolds.

But for the second half Stock made a shock substitution. He brought in bustling striker Halom for Busby. Almost immediately, Luton were down to 10 men as midfielder Givens damaged a knee ligament.

Yet Luton now fought savagely and attacked incessantly. Keen flicked home their first goal and Hindson equalised with a 25-yard drive.

Back limped Givens. And, symbolic of Luton's guts, he slammed a fine shot against a Portsmouth post. Anderson rushed in and hammered the winner off Portsmouth defender Munks.

## *No comment*

No wonder Portsmouth manager Ron Tindall decided to make no comment afterwards. For the whole scene had been reversed.

Portsmouth's midfield control disappeared. Portsmouth's defenders became static and indecisive. Portsmouth's strikers faded.

Luton goalkeeper Read was in trouble just once in the second half—when Trebilcock turned smartly and drove in a hard shot.

So the jeers of Luton's supporters turned to non-stop cheers. And at the end there was a mobbing for players who had become heroes.

True, Luton's skill seldom matched Portsmouth's. What they did have was spirit and determination.

## *Faded*

Outstanding for Portsmouth was midfielder McCann—until he, like his colleagues, faded from the scene. Munks and Ley fought to keep out the Luton strikers.

Reynolds and Trebilcock often had Luton's double barrier of Nicholl and Moore in two minds, but the Luton men stuck to their close-marking task.

**LUTON:** Read 6—Ryan (John) 6, Nicholl 7, Moore 7, Slough 6—Court 6, Keen 7, Givens 6—Anderson 7, Busby (withdrawn) 8, \*HINDSON 8. Sub.: Halom 6.

**PORTSMOUTH:** Standen 6—Smith 6, Youlden 6, Munks 7, Ley 7—Piper 6, Hand 7, \*McCANN 8—Trebilcock 6, Reynolds 7, Jennings 6.

Ref.: G. Nicholls (Plymouth) 8.