

Luton owe it all to Alston

By MAX REESE

Portsmouth 0, Luton 2

EVEN without two key forwards, West and Aston, Luton beat Portsmouth without having to exert themselves. Certainly they did not play very well against opponents who scarcely put together one coherent move, and as a spectacle, the game would have been more exciting if early pressure had brought a goal.

Alston walked past three men but clipped the ball wide of the post, King shot over the top, and then Anderson was foiled by Lloyd's diving save.

Having failed in this early assault, Luton seemed disconcerted when Barber was nearly deceived by a long shot from Reynolds, and they then fell back on some negative tactics.

So the next half hour was painful to watch, and when a goal did come in the 40th minute it was quite unexpected. From a situation of no particular menace King drew Lloyd off his line and turned the ball back for Anderson to score.

Luton scored their second goal soon after half time, and it was a curious slow-motion effort. Ron Fulcher made a good pass from midfield and when Spiring centred, Alston went around in a circle before slipping a soft shot past three defenders.

Spiring then headed against the post, Anderson headed over the top, Piper kicked Alston's shot off the line, and sad Portsmouth's only reply was another strong drive from Reynolds which Barber saved athletically..