

Luton revival is going West

By BILL EDWARDS Luton 3 Portsmouth 1

LUTON may have cash problems, with the Nat. West bank holding the chopper over their heads.

But they've got no problems with another West — skipper Alan West, the man who has sparked off the revival that has now given them eight wins in a row.

Luton were ready to sit back when they had three goals in the bag—and that might have been disastrous if 'keeper Barber hadn't been in such sparkling form.

For Barber—who must take much of the blame for letting Piper score Pompey's only goal when a goal-kick went wrong—more than made amends by pulling out two brilliant saves to stop the same player getting a hat-trick.

Portsmouth have been having something of a revival themselves recently, and manager Ian St. John wasn't too happy at seeing it end. "Ron Futcher's third goal was blatant hands—and it could have made a big difference," he said.

The goal, in fact, followed a good move, and Futcher pounced on a rebound. The other two were simple beauties laid on by West — a corner that gave Faulkner his first goal of the season, and a beautiful cross that made it all so easy for King.

LUTON: Barber 7—*RYAN (J) 8, Faulkner 6, Futcher (P) 6, Buckley 7 — Chambers 6, King 6, West 7 — Husband 5, Futcher (R) 5, Aston 6.

PORTSMOUTH: Lloyd 6—Lawler (w'drawn) 5, Cahill 6, Went 6, Roberts 6—Mellows 7, *GRAHAM 8, Reynolds 6—McGuinness 6, Piper 7, Eames 6. Sub.: Wilson 7.

Ref.: D. Richardson (Blackburn) 7.