

Handy Hall instant hit for Pompey

93/94

PORTSMOUTH'S nippy winger Paul Hall marked his full debut with the only goal and was even congratulated by the Luton goalkeeper.

Hall converted a ten-yard shot in the 40th minute after Mark Stimson had seized on an error by striker Kerry Dixon.

Then Hall explained: "The Luton goalkeeper Juergen Sommer and I were in the same team at Torquay and he used to

Portsmouth 1 Luton 0

by Pat Symes

have great faith in me. He was always telling me ways to improve my game and when I came up for a corner soon after I had scored he said 'Well done. Good goal'."

Portsmouth dominated the first half but fell away and might even have conceded a late equaliser.

But in the first half, with Paul Walsh buzzing against his old club, Pompey looked anxious

to make up for losing their first two matches. Walsh twice had shots cleared off the line by Luton's talented defender John Dreyer, while Hall also posed plenty of problems.

Luton captain Trevor Peake said: "He gave us a bit of a run around and if the goalkeeper had not been in such fine form we might have been in real trouble."

"But after a disappointing first half we should have gone on and pulled a goal back at least."

Dynamic

Lee Chapman, sent off on his home debut in midweek, struggled against Peake and Dreyer.

He was restricted to one chance when he had the ball in the net after 12 minutes but his effort was ruled offside.

Luton were a more dynamic proposition after the break once experienced striker Ian Benjamin had replaced midfield player Scott Oakes.

Paul Telfer should have pulled a goal back after 66 minutes when Dixon played him clear but, with only the goalkeeper to beat, he drilled a shot straight at Alan Knight.

Scott Houghton came on for Martin Williams and then wasted Luton's best chance. He raced clear from the halfway line but took the ball too far and Knight deflected his shot.

PORTSMOUTH: Knight, Awford, Burns, McLoughlin, Symons, Stimson, Neill, Hall, Chapman, Walsh, Blake.

LUTON: Sommer, James, Johnson, Peake, Dreyer, Telfer, Hughes, Preece, Oakes (w'drn 45, sub Benjamin), Williams (w'drn 70, sub Houghton), Dixon.

REF: G. Poll (Berkhamstead).



PAIN IN THE NECK... Luton's Trevor Peake grabs Pompey's Paul Walsh