

POMPEY BURIED AS HATTERS HIT FOUR IN SNOW

93/94

LUTON TOWN 4 PORTSMOUTH 1

ON Sunday Luton Town overcame the fire and brimstone of Welsh passion to win a cup-tie at Cardiff.

Last night at Kenilworth Road it was a winter wonderland for the Hatters as they saw off Portsmouth in a blizzard in the First Division.

Manager David Pleat was concerned to ensure that his men got on with the important business without being distracted by cup glory after their marvellous victory at Ninian Park.

He need not have worried. The only danger to Luton last night was the chance that the match might not get played.

But it went ahead on a soft snow covered surface and Luton adapted their football exactly right.

They took only five minutes to roar into the lead. Scott Oakes went down the left wing and knocked over a deep far post cross and Paul Telfer met it with a perfect header.

Former Hatter Ray Daniel was given off-side when he thought he had headed the equaliser, but Luton took the game to Portsmouth and soon had them all at sea.

Des Linton was unlucky with a shot which was deflected for a corner, but the luck did not hold for Portsmouth because they failed to clear the flag kick properly and David Preece whacked in a stunning



□ALAN HARPER: Rock steady in midfield.

□ LUTON Town will be TV Euro stars again next month. Their FA Cup quarter final against West Ham has been chosen by SKY TV for live coverage.

So for the second time this season Luton will pick up a handy cash bonus and the game will be seen in millions of homes throughout the continent.

It means that the date of the game will be changed to Monday March 14 and that causes another league postponement for the Hatters. They are due to play at Bolton the following night, but that match will now be rearranged.

25 yarder to put Luton two up in the 28th minute.

Portsmouth posed a few problems for Luton, but nothing that John Dreyer and Trevor Peake couldn't handle and when the snow stopped at half time Luton soon warmed up the pace.

A minute into the second half Ceri Hughes netted but was denied by an off-side flag. So four minutes later he shot into the net again and this time it counted.

And as Portsmouth rocked, Oakes made it 4-0 within a minute with a clever 30 yard drive which caught veteran goalkeeper Alan Knight off his line.

To their credit Portsmouth contributed to the entertainment as well and pulled a goal back when big central defender Kit Symonds was given a free header from a corner in the 54th minute.

Apart from the result the other big pleasure for Luton was the return of Kerry Dixon.

Although he did not get on the score sheet the former England marksman played for 75 minutes to show that his ankle injury is no problem to him.

And he got one of the biggest cheers of the night with a brilliant shot on the turn which was only just wide of target.

Equally enjoyable for the 6,533 fans at Kenilworth Road was the way Luton carried on where they had left off in the FA Cup on Sunday.

There it had been a matter of battle to make quality tell and they did it superbly with goals by Oakes and Preece quenching the Welsh passion.

Last night they had to change the game plan a little because of the conditions and did it with another superb team performance.

It should all add up to putting them in very good heart for the visit of Sunderland on Saturday.