

AN UNLUCKY DEFEAT AT BRISTOL.

THE HOME TEAM JUST WIN.

That ill-luck which always seems to dog the feet of Luton just when a good victory is tolerably certain was again in evidence on Saturday at Bristol. It might be thought too much to hope for from Luton to register a win at Bristol, but only the hardest of hard luck apparently preventing them accomplishing this smart performance. Up to within seven minutes of the end Luton actually held the lead, but a rather questionable goal gave the Rovers' the lead, and afterwards they scored from a free-kick from hands.

The following were the teams:—

BRISTOL ROVERS.

		Cartledge		
		Dunn	Pudan	
	Hales	Appleby	Jarvie	
Wilson	Griffith	Oven	Smith	Dunkley
		O		
Barnes	Moody	Lamberton	Ross	Haton
	R. Hawkes	White	F. Hawkes	
	McEwen		Turner	
		Lindsay		
		LUTON.		

Referee, Mr. J. B. Brodie.

Bristol won the toss, but there was not much wind and no sun. The ground was in perfect condition. Luton had the best of the opening play, their forwards early dropping into stride, and soon Eaton got in a fine centre.

Generous use of weight by Dunn, however, upset Luton's combination, and presently Bristol took up the attack. Lindsay saved well from Griffiths, but just after there was a corner given against the visitors, and Wilson placing it well, Smith drove it hard into the net, well out of reach of Lindsay.

Very soon after Bristol forced another corner, and Wilson again placed it straight to Smith, who made a neat attempt, but Lindsay cleared. Barnes and Moody then put in a delightful run, the latter's final shot going just outside.

Cartledge next cleared a soft one from Bob Hawkes, but Ross tested him with a beauty that he only just succeeded in clearing.

A corner followed for Luton, but nothing came of it, and following that Bristol put in a fine combined run that was only stopped by Dunkley being given offside.

Bristol had their combination much upset by the Luton halves, all three of whom were playing a great game. Griffiths thrice managed to get dangerously placed, only to finish with very tame shots.

Lindsay had very little to do, and certainly not so much as Cartledge, who had to be very brisk to save from Ross and Moody. The Luton forwards were continually playing better than Bristol, but Cartledge was very dependable; and in addition to that had grand support from Dunn and Pudan, both of whom kicked very cleanly. Hales once fouled Bob Hawkes, and the free kick was well-placed by Luton but without effect.

Luton came again, though, and after a bout of fine passing Lamberton got the better of Cartledge with a splendid shot.

Luton played very strongly after this and gave the Bristol backs no rest whilst for a period Bristol seemed as if they had no forwards, they were placing so tamely. Excellent length was kept by the Luton in feeding their forwards, whilst they tackled in a way that left nothing to be desired. The Bristol halves on the other hand found the Luton forwards were more than they could manage, for the whole rank was clever and did smart things. Just on interval the Rovers went away with great dash, and Griffiths looked like scoring, but Hawkes robbed him grandly. Bristol also wasted a corner, Wilson placing behind. Half-time:—

BRISTOL	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
LUTON	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Luton were forced on the defensive directly the second half started, Griffiths showing very fine work in the Bristol attack, but he was poorly supported, and soon Barnes beat Dunn and finished up a pretty run for Luton with a splendid centre. This was cleared by Pudan, but directly after Luton came again, and Cartledge just cleared from Ross. Not to be denied they trespassed yet once more, and Ross, beating Jarvie, got the better of Pudan, and scored a brilliant piece of work with a level shot that went just under the bar into the net, out of the reach of Cartledge. The spectators generously applauded this, but they also called encouragement to the home players, whose forwards were singularly disappointed.

Wilson at outside right had several glorious chances, but wasted all, whilst Griffiths who often centred found Ovens altogether incompetent. A series of throws-in much spoiled the play for a time, but when Bristol improved and pressed more hotly Luton's defence was magnificent, McEwen and Turner both playing cool and brilliant games.

Moody made another dash away for Luton, but was pulled up for offside, an infringement that also stopped Bristol twice.

Dunn and Pudan continued to play well for the Rovers.

Ross forced a corner for Luton. Eaton placed well, but Moody shot over, whilst Lamberton was just after robbed by Pudan.

Until the last two minutes Luton retained their lead, and looked like winning, when a general shout by the spectators for hands resulted in the referee consulting the linesmen, from which the Rovers were given a penalty, from which Smith equalised.

Immediately after the resumption the Rovers were awarded a free kick, from which Wilson headed into the net, and gave the Rovers a most unexpected, but lucky win by 3 goals to 2.

The brace of points were very valuable to the Rovers but it was very hard luck on Luton to have two goals registered against them in the last two minutes. Result:—

BRISTOL ROVERS	...	...	...	...	...	3
LUTON	...	...	...	...	...	2