

TABLES TURNED AT BRISTOL.

Grave fears were entertained on Boxing Day that the match at Bristol would have to be postponed on account of the flooding of the Rovers' ground, and it was even reported generally on Monday night that the fixture had been abandoned. The rumour, however, proved untrue, because the match was played, and ended in the defeat of Luton by the odd goal in three.

Thus Bristol succeeded in turning the tables on their opponents of Christmas Day. This was the Westerners' first home match for seven weeks, as all the time the ground has been flooded by the river overflowing its banks. Neither side was at full strength. Luton were rather weak in the attacking line, while the Rovers practically only put a second-rate team in the field. Considering the wet weather, the crowd of 9,000 was exceptionally good. Naturally the turf was in a sodden condition, and the game was consequently a poor one.

Bristol had practically the upper hand in the first half, and they scored once through Mason. While the visiting forwards were held well in check, the Luton backs were again the weak spot. Jarvis was very fine in goal, and saved numerous shots in brilliant fashion. But for such excellent goalkeeping, the Rovers must have been three or four up at the interval.

Crossing over one goal to the bad, Luton played up bravely. For a time they penned the Bristol defence in splendidly, but somehow the shooting of the front string was not by any means effective. Breaking away, the locals caught the opposing defence napping, and Rogers increased their lead.

This second reverse had the effect of waking the Luton players up, and for the next half hour they were "all over" the Rovers. Time after time the home defence was in difficulties, and more than once they were exceedingly lucky to escape defeat. Luton could do everything but score. Still, five minutes on time the Blues were partially rewarded, Smith scoring a brilliant goal. This put Bristol on the defensive, and they succeeded in maintaining their lead to the end.

Result: Bristol Rovers 2 goals, Luton 1.