

BRISTOL ROVERS' RECORD WIN.

Bristol Rovers registered their biggest win of the season at Stapleton Road yesterday afternoon, with Luton as visitors, and incidentally gave their best display. They have had sterner tasks, but their football has never before been of such high calibre. Five goals were scored, three of them in the first half. This just suited the holiday crowd of about 8,000, who also had the diversion of seeing Whatley save a penalty. Right from the kick-off the Rovers raced away, and the first five minutes were as exciting as one could well wish. Summers in the Luton goal was kept busy during this period, as, indeed, he was throughout the game. The ball was continually being sent towards him during the early stages, and outside and on top of the net as well, but he kept his charge intact for ten minutes, after which Sims beat him. From this period until 40 minutes had gone he had much to do, and did it well. Meanwhile, Elvey sent the ball straight at Whatley from the penalty mark, and the Rovers goalkeeper easily caught it. It was Steele who headed the second goal, and just before half-time Sims headed the third point from a corner. He had had many attempts to do this, and had put the ball over the bar on at least half a dozen occasions. This was the extent of the first half scoring, and the Rovers were easily value for their three goals lead.

After the interval Luton changed their team about in an endeavour to stem the tide of adversity, but it made little or no difference to the Rovers, who continued to do excellently. Their passing was a football treat, and with the knowledge of a big and ordinarily winning lead they could afford to display many tricks which, perhaps, they would not have otherwise attempted. They had the full measure of Luton, and always had something to spare in speed and cleverness. The second half had been in progress 25 minutes when Crompton notched the fourth point. It was quite an individual effort, for he took the ball down the centre of the field, beating on route several men, and finished up by beating Summers. The fifth and last goal came a minute from the end, and it was headed in by Sims, who thus registered his third goal.

The Rovers played well to a man, and if they could have found the form that they did yesterday earlier in the season, and maintained it, they would be hovering near the top of the table. The game generally was clean, and although there were a few stoppages for minor injuries no player left the field. Teams:—

Bristol Rovers.—Whatley; Harvie, Brandon; Howe, Crompton, Steele; Walter, Davison, Sims, Weston, and Palmer.

Luton Town.—Summers; Elvey, Dunn; Hawkes, Irwin, Parker; Higginbotham, Hill, Roe, Tomlinson, Bookman.