

BRISTOL ROVERS' BIG WIN.

Bristol Rovers completed their holiday programme yesterday afternoon with a decisive win over Luton Town, so decisive in fact that they registered five goals and the Strawplaiters failed to find the net at all. This Easter tide has been a strenuous one for the Eastvillians, who have taken the field four times in five days. The series of games nevertheless has been attended by success, for six points have been collected and 11 goals scored as against three by their opponents. Further to this March has been the Rovers' best month of the season, seven games having been played, six of which have been won, and 19 goals have been scored against six by opponents. This record is very praiseworthy, and if the same form had been struck earlier in the season then scribes would be writing in promotion terms. That they are not doing so may be in large measure controlled by the run of ill-luck which attended the Rovers earlier in the season when several players were injured, and the team had to be very frequently changed. Of late few changes have been made, and coupled with this the right combination has been discovered.

Yesterday at Stapleton Road Luton took the field handicapped by the absence of Trecoll, their left back, who had the misfortune to break his collarbone in the game with Watford on Monday, but Semple, who took his place, did not let his side down too badly. For a long spell in the first half Luton were slightly the superior side, and Bethune and Pares had to work hard, but Sims and Steele paid too close attention to Luton's vanguard to allow them to very seriously trouble Whitley. The Rovers' forwards seemed tired during this period. Suddenly they woke up, and had much more of the game and were just value for the interval lead of a goal scored by Boxley.

A curious incident marked the early stages of the second half. The ball bounced, and lodged for a moment or two between the partially opened arm of a Luton player and his body. The referee, Mr F. Todman (Croydon), unhesitatingly gave the Rovers a penalty, which was successfully taken by Leigh. This decision was certainly not popular with the Luton players, and many in and about the Press box thought the referee might not have inflicted the severest penalty. Mr Todman exercised his just prerogative, although many a referee would have given a throw up. For ten minutes following this incident Luton's defence crumbled, and, taking advantage, the Rovers swept through time and time again, and increased their lead by three goals during the process. Palmer obtained the third goal with a shot that struck the cross-bar and rebounded into the net. Sims made the scores 4-0 and Crompton 5-0. Palmer had a big say in this last goal, however, for it came following a perfect centre of his, which dropped to the waiting Crompton, who had an easy task to put it past Bailey.

The Rovers thoroughly deserved their win. At one time in the first half tiredness of the team was most noticeable, but whereas the Rovers revived Luton fell away. A feature of the game was the duel between Sims at centre-half for the Rovers and Simms, the crack centre-forward of Division III and prolific goal scorer. Sims held his renowned opponent throughout the game, indeed, he reduced him for the most part to a state of ineffectiveness. It was a fine exhibition of half-back play that Sims gave. The Rovers played well to a man, and considering the "overtime" they had put in since Friday last put up a good display of football. The attendance was 10,000.

The teams were:—Bristol Rovers: Whitley; Bethune, Pares; Howes, Sims, Steele; Walter, Crompton, Boxley, Leigh, Palmer.

Luton Town: Bailey; Lennon, Semple; Bayliff; Higginbottom, Lamb; Hoar, Shanklin, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Referee, Mr F. Todman (Croydon).