

STILL ON TOP.

LUTON TOWN BEAT BRISTOL ROVERS

Rearguard Blunders.

By Crusader.

A GAIN LUTON TOWN added to their laurels on Saturday, and further confirmed their right to the leadership of their Division by a well-merited victory over BRISTOL ROVERS. Though not always so pleasant as the average game between the teams, it was only when time was passing quickly that some of the players got out of hand. The superiority of the Town would have been more marked had the defence been as sound as it was at Brentford, but following the mistaken tactics that enabled the Rovers to get their first goal, the members of the rearguard never appeared able to trust each other, and blunders were frequent enough to make the supporters uneasy every time the Rovers' forwards got on the move. It was well that the attack was in such fine form again, and it is certain that if the defence were equally sound, the prospects of promotion would be very high.

WHATLEY'S WONDERFUL WORK.

Only the grand goalkeeping of Whatley averted a heavy score by the Town, and in the first quarter of an hour he performed wonders. The Town bombarded his goal, but he got to the ball somehow, and usually in skilful fashion. The Town forwards and halves played splendid football, and the ball was continually in the Rovers' territory. It was a perfect goal RENNIE scored after 15 minutes. Accepting on the half-turn a pass from Woods, the centre-forward shot with tremendous power and accuracy, and the ball went right away from Whatley, as he flung himself across with arms outstretched.

The equalising goal came as the result of a false idea of security by Richards. He failed to get the ball away with his usual celerity, and Homer retrieved, and after a brief passing spell sent the ball to PHILLIPS who, unmarked, scored with a great drive.

WOODS' REWARD.

A hot attack by the Town was led by the right wing, Black, Yardley, and Daly having a part, and a scrimmage in a goal-mouth followed. WOODS got in a shot at close quarters, and though Whatley got his fist to the ball as he dived at full length, the ball touched an opponent and went into the net.

Whatley was the big man of the Rovers in the period up to the interval. Assault after assault was launched, but Whatley was in excellent form, and his backs put up a sturdy resistance, kicking strongly and tackling vigorously, and so the rest came with the score:—

LUTON TOWN	2
BRISTOL ROVERS	1

Quick movements by the Town forwards gave the Rovers' defence a harassing time on the restart, and RENNIE scored another brilliant goal to complete delightful work on the left wing, and a good pass by the Yardley. It was not long before the Rovers succeeded, however, for when Richards bowled Phillips over in unceremonious fashion, a penalty kick was awarded after a linesman had been con-

sulted on the appeal of the Rovers. BARTON was successful with the spot kick.

AN ESCAPE.

The Rovers were greatly encouraged by this goal, and though they did not attack nearly so often as the Town, there was danger in their advances. Phillips was a great trial to the Town backs and the wing men showed speed and centred well. Abbott had only one ordeal, however, and that when a misunderstanding with Richards let Phillips through again. The goalkeeper just managed to recover the ball as Phillips was flashing through with it and looking a certain scorer.

Whatley had much more exacting work, once he got in the way of a shot from Bedford at close quarters, and the ball rose from his body and passed over the bar. Another time Bedford got too far under the ball and lifted it over when it seemed impossible; and on a third occasion Woods unfortunately took the ball off Bedford's foot three yards out, and shot wide when a scoring shot from the wing man would have been easy. Still, it was left to BEDFORD to get the fourth goal with the last kick of the match. Daly and Yardley had made a clever run, and the latter lifted the ball over for the left winger to close in and score from close range.

THE PLAYERS.

Reference has been made to the shortcomings in defence. There would not be much to fear if the understanding was better, and if there was less hesitation in getting the ball out of danger. While these defects remain the defence will be unstable. Abbott had no chance with the goals registered against him, and generally took the ball well. Kingham was sound, but Richards seemed unable to overcome the effects of his first error. The middle line played cleverly and valiantly, and the constructive work in the first half was of a high order. None could be extolled as better than his colleagues.

Woods schemed and worked in masterly style, and was the best forward on the field. Rennie's two goals were a joy to witness, and against a less skilful custodian he would have had many. His passes to the wings were also very good, and only a little more ginger at close quarters is required to bring him among the first flight. Yardley played a much better game as partner to Daly, and was most unselfish. Daly and Bedford were in fine form, and the line, as a whole, showed splendid combination and speed. Whatley was the hero of the Rovers' side; Barton and Bennett were strong backs, but the middle men did not show ability to hold the Town forwards. Phillips, Homer and Compton were dangerous forwards.

The attendance exceeded 11,000.

LUTON TOWN	4
BRISTOL ROVERS	2
LUTON TOWN.—Abbott; Kingham, Richards; Black, Fulton, Millar; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.	
BRISTOL ROVERS.—Whatley; Burton, Bennett; Cosgrove, Pirie, Smith; Homer, Paterson, Phillips, White, Compton.	