

TWO MORE FOR THE TOWN

BRISTOL ROVERS BEATEN AT LUTON

(By Crusader)

ALTHOUGH BRISTOL ROVERS were not a very stylish side, they won quite a lot of praise for their plucky exhibition at Luton on Saturday, and if they are kept together they should finish in a much better position than their present record suggests. This was their third consecutive game without a change, and though there were several players of a considerable amount of experience, as a whole they were young enough to warrant perseverance.

* * *

THERE was much speculation as to the sort of show the Town would make with so many changes in the attack. If comparative results are the testing point, then improvement was obtained, because the team had not scored more than two goals in a game since their magnificent victory over Exeter City on the first Saturday of last month. Taking the broader line, however, it cannot be claimed that the general play was better. Attacks were raids rather than combined movements, and exchange of passes was almost unknown.

* * *

THE Town won because there was more effectiveness in the middle and back divisions, and because they pulled out a little more thrust at close quarters. With two goals lead at half-time the result seemed almost assured as a victory for the Town, though the Rovers were not the team to cease striving while there was a chance of a goal. It was the die-hard quality of the Rovers that won the favour of the crowd, and they just kept plugging away when things were going against them.

* * *

THIS does not insinuate that the Town were lacking in mettle. Considering the game as a whole, it may be said that the Town beat the Rovers at their own game, for the contest was one in which pace and strength were more obtrusive features than scientific effort. It will thus be gathered that as an entertainment the match had its limitations, and interest was mainly centred on the prospects of the Town maintaining the advantage they secured in the first half-hour.

* * *

TWO goals were scored in that period, and in each case there was just a tinge of good fortune, though full credit must be given to the players that had a part in the successes. Both goals were the results of fouls. Kean was floored when he was trying to initiate a movement just inside the Rovers' half. Taking the kick, he sent the ball right into the goal-mouth; Calvert could only knock it high in the air, and YARDLEY got his head to the ball before the goalkeeper could recover, and into the net it went.

* * *

TEN minutes later Tait was brought down when he was beating Hill in the course of a rush that would have left him with a clear run into goal. Turner placed the kick nicely, and Tait headed past Calvert as the goalkeeper reached for the ball; it was not through, but HESLOP was close enough to seize the chance, and lost no time in kicking into the net.

* * *

THE Rovers had given a great deal of anxiety to the Town defenders whenever they got into their stride, and most of the assaults came by way of the right wing, both Oakton and Dix showing

clever footwork and understanding. Imrie made one lucky save from Dix while he got rid of a few shots that were well meant, and others passed over the target. Kean and the backs were also prominent with good clearances, but Calvert had far more work than Imrie, and his backs were more busily engaged than the home pair. Perhaps a lead of two goals at the interval flattered the Town a little.

LUTON TOWN		2
ROVERS		0

* * *

THERE was little change in the methods after the cross-over, and the run of play continued to be fairly even, with the Town rather the more dangerous and still giving Calvert stiffer handfuls than fell to Imrie. Mainly that was due to the difference in the merits of the defences rather than to the superiority of the Town forwards. They had the more opportunities of attack, thanks to the better support they received.

* * *

THE Rovers' halves fought hard, and generally had the Town forwards well in check, but they could not serve such passes as were given to the Town forwards. Oakton and Dix continued to be the main source of worry to the Town rearguard, and Imrie made a fine save from Cook. At one stage the Rovers made desperate attempts to draw level and but for the constant watchfulness of the Town backs would probably have done so.

* * *

THE issue was made virtually safe fifteen minutes from the end, after a series of attacks by the Town had been frustrated following hot scuffles in the Rovers' goal area. The ball had been scrambled away several times, and there was no apparent danger when TURNER, benefiting by the play of Fraser and Yardley took a chance and shot a great goal from upwards of twenty yards' range, the speed of the ball beating Calvert as the goalkeeper flung himself across.

* * *

THERE was not a lot of danger to either goal after this, though Oakton and Dix made spasmodic attempts in which they were applauded for clever combination. The Town defence was quite stable, however, and had the satisfaction of hearing the final whistle sound with their goal intact. It was a vigorous but cleanly-fought game, in which the result, from the Town supporters' view, was the most satisfactory feature.

* * *

ALL the defenders played well, with the Town rearguard the more impressive, just as the halves were the more intelligent. There was more consideration in the clearing of danger, and better placing. In attack, however, there was not a lot to choose between the Town and the Rovers. Oakton and Dix were the best wing, and the former the best forward engaged, but as a line the Town were the more effective at close quarters, ever if they did not show such readiness to shoot as the Rovers' five.

LUTON TOWN		3
BRISTOL ROVERS		0

LUTON TOWN — Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Heslob, M'Nestry, Tait, Yardley, Turner.
BRISTOL ROVERS — Calvert; Russell Hill; Routledge, Pickering, Cooper; Oakton, Dix, Cook, Townrow, Young.
Referee.—Mr. A. J. Spittle, Gravesend