

POINT FROM BRISTOL

HARD STRUGGLE MERITS A POINT FOR LUTON

(By Crusader)

IN spite of the fact that Hugh McGinnigle had his eye so badly cut that he had to leave the field after less than twenty minutes' play, was absent for a quarter of an hour, and then returned to play at outside-right, Luton Town were able to collect a very useful point from Bristol Rovers at Eastville on Saturday. It was a very vigorous game, but there were not a great many fouls. Bristol Rovers had slightly the better of matters taking the game throughout, but they could not pierce a stout-hearted defence, and to the Luton halves and rearguard chief honours went once more.

* * *

The injury to McGinnigle came at a time when the Town were showing a distinct superiority over the opposition; they had done the more attacking, and were controlling the ball on the hard ground far better than the Rovers, who played a kick-and-rush game, in direct contrast to the clever game they played at Luton a month ago. M'Nestry, the old Town player, was the mainspring of attack, and after playing at inside-right in the first half, he went centre-forward, and again did splendid work, and came nearer scoring than any other player for his side.

* * *

There were about half-a-dozen troublesome shots at each end, Rennie being the best marksman for Luton, and M'Nestry for the Rovers. A feature of the game was the eclipse of Vivian Gibbins, the erstwhile West Ham United player, who went from centre to inside-left at the interval, and later went to outside-left, but he was so well watched that he never got in a shot at goal. Indeed, M'Nestry alone got in any shots worth while, and he had very hard luck when he hit the upright in the second half, while of two other drives one went all along the ground and out by the corner flag, and the other skimmed the bar. Rennie twice had express drives blocked by the bodies of defenders, and in the closing stages he put in one shot that went like lightning just over the bar. Mackey also had one shot from the half-way line—a free kick—which Beby saved, under the bar, and Rowe also had a couple of fine efforts stopped in clever style by the Rovers' goalkeeper.

Those were the main incidents that evoked thrills, but the play was very fast, and there were plenty of hard knocks without any really foul play. Another feature of the game was the fine kicking by Imrie, who rarely failed to send the ball well up to his forwards, and one of his goal kicks went behind the goal-line at the other end. Imrie showed all his old confidence, and had good reason, for the backs played magnificently under pressure, and covered him well at all times. A good word was deserved by each of those that played in the middle line. McGinnigle was doing finely until hurt, and then Fraser played just as well as pivot as he does on the flank, and did rather more attacking than is the wont of McGinnigle.

* * *

Brown has never before played such a splendid game with the first eleven. He was quick and accurate, tackled surely, and was often partner in a triangular movement. Nelson also did grand service at half-back, and all the forwards did well. Rowe has never played better; Mills was here, there, and everywhere, and put a lot of life into the attack; Hutchison did much skilful manoeuvring; and Rennie was well on the mark when he had a pass he could utilise to advantage.

* * *

M'Nestry was easily the best forward for the Rovers, his speed and courage being responsible for more attacks than those of any other forward. McKay was a trier all the time; at half Eyres was best, and Pickering was head and shoulders above the rest of the rearguard, some of his clearances being very good indeed. The Rovers, however, were fast nearly so good a side as against our team a month ago.

* * *

BRISTOL ROVERS 0

LUTON TOWN 0

BRISTOL ROVERS: Beby; Pickering, Donald; Irving, Routledge, Eyres; Wyper, M'Nestry, V. Gibbins, McKay, Green.

LUTON TOWN: Imrie; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Hutchison, Rennie, Nelson, Rowe. Referee: Mr. F. W. Reeve, Devonport.