

SIX FOR LUTON

BRILLIANT FORWARD PLAY FOR GOALS

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	6
Bell (3), Ball (2), Roberts.	
BRISTOL ROVERS	2
Allen, Taylor.	

LUTON.—Coen; Smith, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Crompton, Bell, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson
 BRISTOL ROVERS.—Ellis; McLean, Donald; Wallington, McArthur, Murray; M'Nestry, McCambridge, Taylor, Allen, Wipfler.

Referee: E. R. Westwood, Walsall.

BRILLIANT attack established Luton Town's superiority over their guests on Saturday, and it is safe to say that if the whole team had maintained the high standard of the first half throughout the ninety minutes, the Bristol club would have suffered something like a record defeat in the League. There was a decided slackening as far as the attack was concerned after the interval, and it may have been wise, in view of the important game ahead at Stamford Bridge.

Loopholes were discovered in the defence, and there is certainly need for watchfulness in this respect.

As in other games of late, the early stages gave little indication of one-sidedness. The Rovers then gave as good as they received, and came very near opening the score.

Gradually the Town assumed command, and before the interval, had virtually won the match, though tribute must be paid to the Rovers for the fact that they never ceased to fight back, and worried the Town defence right to the end.

From the outset there was marksmanship of a high standard, and I am quite sure we have not seen better since the offside rule was revised. It was not merely that six goals were scored, for that total has been exceeded, of course, but the readiness to have a "crack" from twenty yards range; the manner in which the ball was kept low, and the accuracy generally. Ellis damaged his shoulder, but had no chance whatever with any shot that beat him, while he made many magnificent saves.

ELLIS IN ACTION

The first good scoring chance came after Ball had careered to the right and sent the ball right across, but Stephenson failed to control it as he received, when Ellis dived at full stretch to push out a shot; he flipped the ball across the goalmouth, and somehow it squirmed away from the foot of Ball and Bell as each in turn tried to direct it into the vacant goal. The Rovers looked like scoring when Wipfler eluded Smith and drove the ball right into the goalmouth, but Thayne managed to get his head to the ball before an opponent, and it soared high and wide. Ellis was constantly in action, and the Rovers appeared to become a tribe rattled under pressure, and there were infringements that jeopardised their goal. Ellis thwarted the home forwards again and again when his colleagues were beaten, and eventually he, too, had to admit defeat.

OPENING GOAL

BALL took a pass up the middle, and, spying a clear route for the ball, he shot splendidly, the ball keeping close to the ground; Ellis dived across, but could not reach the ball, which struck the inner side of the upright, rolled across behind the prostrate goalkeeper, who swung round and retrieved it, only to see the referee point to the centre. The Rovers clustered round the official, and some of them laid hands

on him in their earnestness to dispute the point, but he refused to give way.

I was told that some of the crowd behind the goal did not think the ball crossed the line, but others declared that it did.

From the Press-box it certainly seemed to be beyond what was left of the goal-marking.

A DELIGHTFUL EFFORT

The Rovers made strong efforts when their forwards had support, and Coen had to save two or three times, and some roughness developed. McArthur and McCambridge each earning the disapprobation of the crowd for bad fouls. The Town right wing played capital football, with Ball leading grandly, and Roberts also doing bright work, and the second goal was a delightful effort. The right wing made the advance, the ball was centred, and Ball headed it backwards for ROBERTS to hook the ball into the net as prettily as could be desired.

The Rovers tried harder than ever, and after an attack had been beaten off, ALLEN met the ball, and from full twenty-five yards range, put in a glorious left-foot shot at which Coen hurled himself in vain.

THRILLING PLAY

This stung the Town to further action, and they commanded the ball for the rest of this half. The Rovers' halves and backs were outwitted by the pace and the combination of the Town forwards and halves, while the shooting was thrilling. Ellis saved heroically, but after one terrific shot by BELL had been diverted by a defender, he had the ball in a trice and crashed it into the net. Ball lifted the ball yards too high when he had a fine chance, but after further dazzling work all along the line, BELL again shot hard and low into the net following a fine centre by Stephenson.

Ellis did wonderful work, and gave nothing away, but might well have been beaten three or four more times before the whistle sounded the interval.

TOWN	4
ROVERS	1

There was a lot of dull play after the change of ends, though the Town were still superior. There was not the same tang about their attacks, however, and yet they made chances. Once Crompton raced right through, but instead of lifting the ball back to Ball, who had an easy opening, he preferred to take a "crack" himself, and the angle was well covered by Ellis. The Rovers took heart, and made many efforts, but they could not give Coen much work, though they kept Thayne and the backs busy, and M'Nestry was always a potential danger. When the Town did make moves there were exciting moments for Ellis and his backs, but generally, play was tame as compared with the first half.

CROWD ASKED WELL

The crowd wanted more, however, and began to ask for it, and the last fifteen minutes provided play as thrilling as that of the first half. Crompton rounded Donald very neatly, and from his centre, BALL leapt high, and deflected the ball with his head to beat Ellis.

The Rovers hit back, and the Town defence showed slackness, especially on the left, and TAYLOR received and was allowed to bore his way through and take a direct shot at goal; Coen parried the ball, but it came back to Taylor, who managed to turn it just inside the post.

THE SPUR

This was the spur the Town needed, and they monopolised the play. Roberts had once headed against the bar, and now Brown came through and put in a splendid drive which Ellis touched against the bar, and the goal escaped. Ellis sprang across goal and turned outside another fine effort by Bell, and saved from all the forwards in turn. Corners were conceded, and Ellis anticipated the flag-kicks or the headers, and many shots missed by inches only. Taylor was only just frustrated at the other end when he broke through, and the Rovers made a desperate effort to further reduce the deficit, and shot strongly again and again, but the goal was well covered. Ball and Crompton then carried play to the other end, and the centre-forward very unselfishly passed to BELL, who beat Ellis for the sixth time with a well placed, low shot.

Still the Rovers did not give in, and a poor pass back by Stephenson gave them an opportunity to attack, and furious efforts were made to score, but all to no purpose.

DEFENCE

There were times when I thought Coen appeared to be rather bothered by the uncertainty of the men in front of him, but perhaps that wonderful shot by Allen had something to do with that. He did not have a lot of work as compared with Ellis.

Smith again played finely at back and was about the best defender on view.

Mackey found M'Nestry a slippery customer at times, though when he settled down to it the Town captain was steady enough. All the halves have played better, though they were in good form, but there was a looseness now and then that was somewhat unsettling, and the Rovers might have had another goal or two. Thayne played in patches, and Brown and Fraser, good enough in support, were none too quick in recovery. It was largely their fine placing, however, that gave the forwards such zest for their job.

GRAND LEADERSHIP

Ball gave one of the finest exhibitions of leadership that we have seen since the days of Ernest Simms.

His method of attracting the visiting centre-half away from the middle gave his colleagues chances, and Bell, in particular, appreciated these. Bell has become a grand marksman, and can hit the ball tremendously hard and accurately. Roberts played a thoughtful game, making many clever touches, but there were occasions when he was beaten to it because he waited for the ball to run to him when he should have gone for it. His initiation, however, was a factor in the success. Crompton improves with every game, and did much fine work in association with Bell and Ball, but when his colleagues have better position he should pass, although after the great goal he scored at Southend one hesitates to say that he should not shoot so much. It is all a question of position.

Stephenson is one of the players difficult to size up. When things are bad he rises to the occasion, but when they are going well he falls, and he had a poor match, on the whole.

THE ROVERS

For the Rovers, Ellis was a grand goalkeeper, but his backs and halves were overrun. Donald Murray worked hard, but not a lot was seen of the much-lauded Wallington, though a knock in the first half probably affected him. The forwards showed plenty of spirit and not a little skill, and M'Nestry again showed that he can be a very dangerous player, while Allen has evidently some of his old shooting ability, if he has lost some of his dash. Wipfler is a youngster with possibilities, while McCambridge is a worker all the time, though apt to get excited.

The attendance was below expectations, 8,574 paying £479 10s. 6d. for admission.