

HISTORY MADE IN HOLIDAY GAMES

Payne's Ten Goals in a Match

LUTON DROP POINT HOME AND AND AWAY

AT BRISTOL ON GOOD FRIDAY

BRISTOL ROVERS	2
Crisp, Barley (pen.)	
LUTON TOWN	2
Martin, Rich	

BRISTOL ROVERS: Ellis; Pickering, Preece; Wallington, Murray, Young; Barley, Hartill, Harris, Houghton, Crisp.
LUTON TOWN: Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Gooney, Nelson, Godfrey; Rich, Martin, Boyd, Roberts, Stephenson.
Referee: T. J. Botham, Walsall.

AT LUTON ON SATURDAY

LUTON TOWN	0
MILLWALL ATHLETIC	0
LUTON TOWN: Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Gooney, Nelson, Godfrey; Rich, Martin, Boyd, Roberts, Stephenson.	
MILLWALL: Adams; Smith, Dudley; Broily, Wallbanks, Forsyth; Alexander, Daniels, Smith (R.), McCartney, Thorogood.	

Referee: E. R. Westwood, Walsall.

AT LUTON ON MONDAY

LUTON TOWN	12
Payne (10), Roberts, Martin	
BRISTOL ROVERS	0
LUTON TOWN: Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Godfrey; Rich, Martin, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.	
BRISTOL ROVERS: Ellis; Pickering, Preece; McArthur, Murray, Young; Barley, Wallington, Hartill, Wildsmith, Crisp.	

Referee: T. J. Botham, Walsall.

WE HAVE BEEN SAYING that the Easter games would decide the question of promotion, but it has not yet done so. The position is much the same as far as the two leading clubs are concerned, except that Coventry City, by taking five points out of a possible six against Luton Town's four out of a possible six, have gone to the head of the table again by superior goal average.

READING'S CHANCES have receded, and there is only the barest possible chance for Queen's Park Rangers or Crystal Palace to supersede either Luton or Coventry.

AT BRISTOL THE GAME ON FRIDAY was keenly contested, with the Town playing the more skilful football, and the Rovers adopting the stopping game that has come to be the recognised means of holding teams better placed. With the breeze behind them, but facing the sun, the Town held a very big advantage on the run of the game in the first half. The right wing, pair, Rich and Martin, were very prominent, but any attempt to force the issue at close quarters was met with spirited and vigorous resistance by the City backs and halves.

FIRST BLOOD went to the Rovers, whose raids were nippy, and they never hesitated to take a shot. The Town defence was none too steady in meeting a light ball and the thrusts of the home forwards. A dash on the right wing brought a pass to the left, and CRISP, who was unmarked, scored with a very hard cross shot.

LUTON PRESSED continuously, and Roberts struck the bar when the goal-keeper was out of his charge, while all the forwards had shots rebound from defenders. Now and then the Rovers raided, but generally they were kept in check, for the Town halves supported their forwards well, and was no more than was deserved when MARTIN headed through from a centre by Rich. Luton maintained the pressure right to the interval, which came with the scores level.

PLAY was not very interesting for long spells in the second period, the Town failing to consummate excellent approach work against a lusty opposition that gave no quarter. When the Rovers got going properly the Town goal had two or three narrow escapes, and luckily got the ball away. Then the Town had their turn, and Roberts, who was playing grandly, swung the ball across for RICH to head a great goal.

SOON THE ROVERS were on level terms, though they were lucky to score in the way they did. A linesman flagged for an offence against Godfrey, but the referee allowed play to proceed and the ball went out of play. Then the Rovers clamoured for the referee to consult the linesman, and as a result he gave a free kick. From this the ball was well placed, and Coen was beaten, but Smith headed out from under the bar; the ball went straight in the air, and as it came down Smith fisted out. A penalty kick was given, and BARLEY equalised from the spot.

HAMMER AND TONGS the teams went at it after this, and the Town defence had a gruelling and shaky time, in which the goal had many escapes. Before the end, however, the Town came again, and Roberts was bowled over from behind when he had a chance, and Rich, Martin and Stephenson all went close. However, the end came with the teams all square.

TWO CHANGES were made for the game at home on Saturday, Dolman taking the place of Coen, and Boyd displacing Cook from centre-forward. The former change made little difference, because Millwall did so little attacking, and there was no more punch in the attack than there had been on the previous day. Millwall were fortunate to escape with a point, for they were kept on the defensive for more than three-fourths of the game.

LUTON DID the more attacking in the early stages, but Millwall defended resolutely, and Adams had not a lot of shots to deal with. The Town showed plenty of spirit, but Millwall replied with strong charging and there were a number of free

kicks against the visitors, but they were always repelled. Once Boyd tricked a way through and then gave Roberts a perfect chance, but the inside-left ballooned the ball from a few yards range when he could have walked it through.

NOW AND THEN the visitors got away, their left wing being the more dangerous, and Thorogood once shot magnificently, but Dolman saved splendidly. The Millwall goal had many escapes before the change of ends, and play became somewhat rough, and one or two of the visitors were spoken to for bad fouls. However, they retired without a goal against them.

THE SECOND HALF was almost one continual onslaught on the Millwall goal, and the visitors simply concentrated on defence and kicked anywhere for safety. Wallbanks defended strongly, and Adams had far more work to do, and did it well. One save from Roberts at full length was cheered loudly by the crowd, and as the minutes sped the Town brought all their resources to bear, but they could not snatch a goal, and the end came without score.

GLUT OF GOALS MONDAY'S GAME with Bristol Rovers at Luton was just the opposite. Bristol Rovers made several changes in their side as from the team that played on Good Friday, while Luton again made two changes, introducing Finlayson at right half and Payne at centre-forward. The latter was a very happy change, indeed, for as a result football history was made, the young centre-forward creating an individual scoring record by getting ten of the twelve goals scored.

IN THE OPENING STAGES there was no suggestion that there would be such a score, for the Rovers played strongly, and were dangerous when they got away, using their wings well. Early on Nelson slipped on the soft turf, and only Dolman's quick rush from goal to block a shot by Hartill prevented a goal.

AFTER TWENTY-THREE MINUTES the orgy of goal-scoring began. A long pass up the middle by Smith was missed by Murray, who had gone to centre-half, and PAYNE seized the ball and raced through to shoot a fine goal as Ellis raced out to meet him. The Town attacked almost incessantly, and after a shot by Stephenson had been repelled by Ellis, ROBERTS took possession and scored with a clever low drive.

THE THIRD GOAL came when Payne and Pickering tried conclusions of weight, and the Rovers' captain went down; Payne sent out to the left, and when Stephenson centred PAYNE was there to score after Ellis had saved brilliantly at full length from the outside-left. The fourth goal came when Roberts shot hard and PAYNE trapped the ball and beat Ellis again.

IMMEDIATELY the Town restarted they had the Rovers' defence in hard straits, and PAYNE met on the run a square centre from Stephenson and shot hard into the net as he and the goalkeeper collided. Both had to receive attention. Luton pressed fiercely, and forwards and halves shot hard at goal from all angles, and PAYNE headed the sixth goal from a centre by RICH.

THE TOWN RIGHT WING soon made another opening, and from Rich's centre PAYNE headed in; Ellis flung himself after the ball and as he gathered it Martin forced him into the net, but the referee had already awarded a goal. Ellis saved splendidly again and again, and the Rovers could make no progress, their halves and backs being kept on the defence.

BEAUTIFUL FOOTWORK by Godfrey sent Stephenson through again, and from his centre PAYNE gave Ellis no chance with a fierce shot. After a brief skirmish at the other end the Town left wing raced through for Stephenson to middle accurately, and PAYNE headed into the net with Ellis helpless to save. Roberts shot over and the Town forwards ran round the opposition with ease, and from a corner kick by Stephenson PAYNE headed the tenth goal.

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS there was another bright bout of passing by the Town forwards and PAYNE was mixed up with a ruck of players on the ground when he got his foot to the ball and shot past Ellis once more. Just before the whistle the Town left wing got through and from Stephenson's centre MARTIN rammed in an unstopable shot taken as the ball came across. So the game ended.

COMMENTS Coen's supersession in goal was unexpected, although he did not have a very good game at Bristol, but none of the defenders appeared to be on form that day. Dolman proved good enough with the little he had to do in the other two games. Mackey and Smith, the former especially, appeared to find the burden of promotion somewhat nerve-racking; they appeared to get back to their best on Monday, but that was probably because they found the forwards could get goals. It has been an anxious time for all the defenders while the forwards have been so impotent. Now that the ice is broken properly perhaps the team will get back to their best again.

Nelson was none too happy at Bristol, but did better on Saturday and was at his best on Monday. Godfrey is a real find, and if he does not rise to international status it will be surprising. He needs a little more weight, but his skill with the ball is unquestionable. Gooney, too, has played

grandly on the other flank, and in his game on Monday I think it was seen that the rest did Finlayson a lot of good. These flank halves are about the brightest part of the Town's play at present.

The comparative failure of Cook and Boyd is unaccountable. Payne's success would serve to show up the faults perhaps, but in my opinion neither Cook nor Boyd has had such magnificent support as was given to Payne. Whether there is any reason for this or not is a matter of conjecture, but if so, it is a pity that the team has not played together better, or that Payne was not tried sooner.

Payne's performance was remarkable for its simplicity. Known as a good shot always, he has also the strength and the courage for the position, and he had the ability to lose the opposing centre-half; that was how he got so many openings. His general play was also good, for he passed accurately, and was in position for a return

Martin did well at Bristol and at home, but had not a very good game on Saturday. Roberts played consistently all three games, but would be a tremendous force if his marksmanship were as good as his general work. Rich continues to justify confidence, and Stephenson, though none too good against the Rovers at Eastville, was much better on Saturday, and on Monday was irresistible once the scoring had begun.