

HARTILL took over the leadership of Bristol Rovers for their return match with the League leaders at Luton this afternoon, injuries causing a reshuffle of the Eastville side, who had Wallington at inside-right, Wildsmith at inside-left, and McArthur as pivot. Teams:—

BRISTOL ROVERS.—Ellis; Pickering, Preece; Murray, McArthur, Young; Bailey, Wallington, Hartill, Wildsmith, Crisp.

LUTON.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Godfrey; Rich, Martin, Payne, Roberts, and Stephenson. Referee: Mr. T. J. Botham (Walsall).

Luton attacked, and a miskick by Pickering let in PAYNE, who made no mistake with a brilliant ground shot after 23 minutes' play to give the League leaders the lead.

Bristol returned, and there was a strong appeal for a penalty for hands, but after consultation with a linesman the referee awarded a free-kick just outside the area.



After this the Rovers had to concentrate on defence, but Ellis was not seriously troubled.

A breakaway on the Rovers' left gave Hartill a chance, but he shot wide.

After 32 minutes' play, following severe Luton pressure, Rich got across a centre and ROBERTS easily scored Luton's second goal.

Ellis saved another certain goal a minute later by a fine clearance from Godfrey.

The Rovers broke away and forced a corner on the left, but the flag-kick was cleared.

After this Luton set up heavy pressure, and Ellis distinguished himself with a couple of great saves.

At last Luton went further ahead. Stephenson went clean through and sent in a terrific shot that Ellis saved in magnificent style.

He failed to hold the ball, however, and PAYNE tapped it into the net.

This was after 40 minutes' play, and two minutes later the Town went further ahead through PAYNE, who completed his "hat-trick."



35/36

Four minutes from the resumption Roberts and Stephens went through for Luton and centred inside for PAYNE, who was making his debut for Luton at centre-forward, to crash the ball into the net.

The Rovers broke away and forced a fruitless corner, but Luton were soon back, and after Ellis had saved from Payne, MARTIN charged both ball and goalkeeper into the net for Luton's sixth.

Luton were irresistible, and nothing could stop them.

Following brilliant forward play PAYNE scored his fifth individual goal and Luton's seventh.

The Rovers defended pluckily against heavy odds, but in face of the Town's promotion form they had no chance at all.

PAYNE added another goal—his sixth—to add to the woes of the Eastville side, who were all at sea against Luton's fast raids.

PAYNE converted Stephenson's centre, and then the winger missed with a shot that broke the side net.

From another flag-kick Stephenson placed well for PAYNE to head a brilliant goal.

Luton's centre-forward got another a few minutes later, and then equalled the record with an individualist effort, while a minute before time MARTIN got the twelfth.

RESULT:

LUTON TOWN	12
BRISTOL ROVERS	0