

BRISTOL ROVERS CATCH A PAYNE

GOAL SCORING RECORD

Jubilant Scenes on Luton Town Ground

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN brought off a remarkable victory over Bristol Rovers yesterday. Joe Payne, introduced for the first time as centre-forward, had a personal triumph in scoring ten of the twelve goals, but it must be acknowledged that Payne's success was due very largely to the brilliant play of the forwards and the flank halves. The feature of Payne's play was that he was always in the right place when passes came from his colleagues, and he lost no time in taking chances.

The weather still held the Arctic touch, and the ground churned up as the game wore on.

The Town made two changes from Saturday's game with Millwall, Finlayson coming in for Gooney at right-half, and Payne displacing Boyd at centre-forward. The Rovers made several changes, and introduced McArthur at half-back. Hartill occupied his best position as leader of the attack, Wallington was given a run at inside-right instead of half-back, with the idea of introducing some life among the forwards, and Wildsmith was fresh at inside-left.

The teams were:—

LUTON TOWN		Bristol Rovers	
Rt.	Lt.	Rt.	Lt.
Mackey	Dolman	Smith	Godfrey
Finlayson	Nelson	Roberts	Stephenson
Rich	Martin	Payne	
O		Hartill	
Crisp	Wildsmith	Wallington	Barley
Young	Murray	McArthur	Pickering
Preece	Ellis		

Referee: Mr. T. J. Botham, Walsall. Sleet was still falling when Pickering won the toss. The Town opened with an attack on the right, Rich swinging the ball right across, but Preece put it out to the left, and it went out of play. Nelson relieved when the Rovers' left took possession. Martin sent Rich through again, and the winger centred well for Pickering to head away.

TOWN'S NARROW ESCAPE

Nelson handled when the ball beat him for pace off the turf. From the free kick by Murray, Smith cleared.

A short midfield spell followed. Then Mackey was applauded for holding up Crisp by smart tackling.

The Town goal narrowly escaped when Nelson failed to get the ball away and Hartill broke clean through. Dolman rushed out and the ball struck his leg and rebounded almost to the centre line.

Payne made a great effort, but, hampered by two opponents, sent behind. When the Rovers had another turn Crisp went away with a fairly clear field but centred behind.

ROVERS' BACKS SAFE

The Town pressed strongly, but Preece and Pickering were very safe, the former heading well.

Martin was applauded for tricky work, but his pass to the left was faulty. McArthur fouled Godfrey, and the free kick was headed clear.

A strong tackle by Smith held up the Rovers' right, and Roberts received to break through. His pass to Stephenson was too steamy.

The Town right wing put in some pretty work, but Payne was pulled up for pushing Mackey rather wildly conceded a corner when both Smith and Dolman had the ball covered, and from the flag kick Crisp headed over.

Wildsmith sent Crisp away with a nice pass, but Finlayson blocked the way. Preece held up Payne when the centre-forward tried to take a long pass.

From a pass by Finlayson, Roberts seized and went through to shoot hard, and the ball went from Payne's head just wide of the upright.

PAYNE THE GOAL-GETTER

The linesman flagged when the ball struck Smith's hand. Apparently, a penalty was expected by the Rovers, but the ball was placed just outside the area and Barley sent the free kick just over the bar.

Rich raced through and centred. When Murray turned the ball to the left Stephenson failed to go for it.

Twenty-three minutes after the start Smith robbed the Rovers' right wing and took the ball well up. He passed straight up the middle and McArthur missed the ball, letting PAYNE race

through to beat Ellis with a fast low shot as the goalkeeper raced out of goal.

Roberts was tripped and from the free kick the Town attacked again. Godfrey swung the ball across goal, and Payne just missed with his head.

The Rovers had to defend stubbornly, the ball being swung in from the left wing three or four times in quick succession. It was a few moments before the Rovers got away, and then Crisp was off-side.

ROBERTS FOLLOWS HIS EXAMPLE

Hartill sent wide after a rather tame attack by the visitors.

Finlayson and Martin initiated a bright movement on the Town right. Rich centred and Stephenson put in a great shot that struck Ellis and rebounded.

ROBERTS took possession and, with a quick, low shot, gave Ellis no chance.

Undaunted by this second reverse, the Rovers attacked Godfrey, putting back



to Dolman, compelled the goalkeeper to concede a corner.

A SECOND FOR PAYNE

Payne compelled Murray to concede a corner, and Ellis brought off a great save when Finlayson shot well from twenty yards.

Payne was the one man who seemed able and unafraid of Pickering. He robbed the full back with a robust charge and went on to feed his left wing.

Stephenson galloped through and shot splendidly for Ellis to save in great style at full length. He could not get the ball away, however, and PAYNE had a simple task to tap the ball into the net.

A free kick was given against Nelson when he brought down Wildsmith, but the visitors were pulled up for offside when the kick was taken.

Gallantly though the Rovers defended they had to capitulate two minutes before the interval, when PAYNE completed his hat trick.

The move originated on the left wing, and when Roberts shot in Payne collared the ball and gave Ellis no chance from close range.

Half-time came!

LUTON TOWN 4

BRISTOL ROVERS 0

The Town went through on the right on the restart, and a centre from Martin was headed just wide by Stephenson.

The Rovers' goal was hard pressed and Martin, Roberts and Payne each tried to put in a shot from close range without success.

AND STILL HE CONTINUES

Ellis saved a hard one from Roberts and Payne headed over.

Four minutes after the restart Roberts and Stephenson cleverly beat the opposition, and Stephenson's centre was met on the run by PAYNE, who crashed the ball into the net.

Payne and Ellis collided, and both were well shaken, and had to receive attention from their respective trainers. It was nice to see Ellis go to the centre-forward and pat him on the back before play resumed. The Rovers forced a corner on the left but Mackey cleared, and in a return visit by the Town Stephenson, from long range put over.

THEN IT WAS SEVEN

The Town continued to press. Pickering, Preece and McArthur each blocked



shots, and Godfrey put in two terrific low drives, each of which was saved by Ellis.

Finlayson beat Wildsmith in midfield and gave Roberts a pass for the latter to send Rich away.

From the centre PAYNE headed the ball down to his feet and then beat Ellis with a quick shot to make his tally five and the Town's six.

The Town right wing and Godfrey kept putting the ball across, and following a centre by Rich, Payne headed cleverly

The Rovers were forced to defend again, and Ellis saved well from Martin at point blank range.

Following a free kick, Ellis saved three shots in quick succession, after which Crisp got away to force a corner, Mackey clearing.

Dolman had to save a long shot from the right. Crisp got over a good centre but there was no one up to tackle Smith.

Roberts made a sharp run through the middle and drove in a hard shot that Ellis brilliantly turned round the upright. From the flag kick Payne headed over.

PAYNE'S HALF DOZEN

Barley got through to centre but Mackey cleared.

Godfrey paved the way for the next goal with a clever pass to Stephenson, who raced straight through and then gave PAYNE a perfect pass. The goalkeeper again had no chance with the drive.

A free kick to the Rovers brought a header from Hartill but Dolman was at home for it, and in another visit by the Rovers Crisp was offside.

A long pass up the left wing sent Stephenson clean through.

He centred grandly for PAYNE to head another fine goal, Ellis being hopelessly placed.

Roberts had another chance to reach

double figures following clever work by Martin, but he managed to lift the ball over from a very difficult angle.

A nice pass by Payne to Stephenson gave the outside left a chance, and his shot broke the side net.

DOUBLE FIGURES REACHED

Luton were now toying with the opposition.

Stephenson forced a corner and placed the flag kick well, and PAYNE headed another fine goal.

PAYNE scored his ninth goal after a struggle in the mud when a shot taken while he lay on the ground moved just too wide for Ellis to reach.

Godfrey conceded a corner, and there followed the Rovers' best attack so far this half.

Two or three shots were fired in. Dolman saving one and Godfrey heading away splendidly.

One minute from time Stephenson centred and MARTIN fired in a terrific first-time shot.

This was Luton's record score, at any rate since the war.

Result:

LUTON TOWN 12

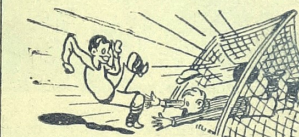
BRISTOL ROVERS 0

COMMENTS

I have referred to the performance of Payne, and am now constrained to ask why there has not been the same co-operation in attack in other games? There was no selfishness in any position, and the footwork was clean, the passing accurate, and the positioning generally was as near perfection as could be desired.

BRILLIANT FORWARDS

Every forward played brilliantly, and if Rich was not so conspicuous as usual it was because he saw less of the ball. The forwards, however, owed a great deal to the support of the flank halves, Finlayson and Godfrey. Both played delightful football, and with every match Godfrey



wins higher praise. For a considerable time Stephenson was only moderate, but once he had caught the spirit of his colleagues, he was masterly, and Martin and Roberts played up to him as well as to Payne, and in the second half brought out the best of him as he did out of Payne.

DEFENCE SOUND

In the rear was Nelson, always mastering his former club-mates at Wolverhampton, Hartill and Wildsmith, and Smith was as good as a fourth half-back. I liked the way both Smith and Mackey kept sending the ball up the middle to Payne—fine length kicking, the middle to Payne—fine length kicking, skimming balls that gave the centre-forward an equal chance with the opposition. It was good football all the way, and I must not forget Dolman. He had a few anxious moments, and though, on one occasion, he was very lucky to block a shot from Hartill, he was always alert, and realised the value of a blank sheet.

THE ROVERS

Ellis was absolutely free from blame. Had he not been a splendid goalkeeper the score would have reached twenty. He

had no chance with any scoring shot, and frustrated many other fine efforts.

When we were at Bristol on Friday I thought that Pickering, the Rovers' captain, was the one man likely to cause unpleasantness, and he was just the same in this game. Even at half-time he tried to get Roberts to retaliate as they came off the field. Well, before the end I was sorry even for him. He was utterly lost. Preece was a gallant defender, and in spite of the goals against the defence I think he was as good as any back on the field.

The halves had a poor afternoon, as would any middle line against such football as the Town forwards played. The forwards were triers, especially Hartill and Crisp, but without support they could not expect to do much.

THE REFEREE'S PART

After Friday's game I had a good word for Mr. Botham, the referee, and I would endorse that. When a team is doing with opponents what the Town were doing for the Rovers, players are apt to get rattled, but he saw the game was played as it should be, and I was glad of it, for after some of the things that happened at Bristol behind the back of the official, I expected something of a rough house. Had Mr. Botham been in charge in one or two other games there would have been more football and less of the "stop 'em somehow" which has put more than one Town player on the casualty list.

Attendance 13,962. Receipts £265 16s. 6d.

JOCK GILLESPIE TO TRY

To-morrow afternoon Luton Borough Police are entertaining Northampton Borough Police on the Town ground. Mrs. Teale, widow of the late Chief Constable, very kindly presented a cup to the Borough Police, and the Chief Constable has decided to put this up for competition in the annual football match which is played by the Borough Police in order to get funds to help poor children.

Northampton have a very good side, and the Luton Police will do well if they can keep this cup at home. The scoring feat of Joe Payne has been the subject of much discussion among the police, and if Jock Gillespie gets as many chances as did Joe Payne he may equal that scoring feat. He is playing centre-forward, and the Luton team to kick-off at 3.30 will be:—

Alexander, Miles, Davey, Harris, Pidgeon, Upchurch, Gibson, Slater, Gillespie, Smith, Roberts.

LONDON COMBINATION

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Arsenal	43	28	10	5	113	49	61
Brentford	43	27	11	5	91	52	59
Portsmouth	42	25	9	8	113	61	58
Chelsea	43	20	14	9	92	76	49
Crystal Palace	42	20	13	9	95	89	49
Swansea Town	44	19	15	10	71	64	48
Reading	43	21	16	6	91	83	48
West Ham U.	43	21	17	5	107	73	47
Queen's Park R.	44	20	17	7	79	67	47
Luton Town	42	21	17	4	112	101	46
Northampton	43	17	16	10	84	75	44
Charlton Ath.	43	19	19	5	85	76	43
Tottenham H.	41	16	15	10	103	85	42
Millwall	42	18	18	6	61	68	42
Coventry	43	17	19	7	79	82	41
Clayton Orient	43	13	17	13	62	94	39
Fulham	42	15	19	8	77	19	38
Boscombe	44	14	21	9	68	97	37
Watford	44	16	24	4	86	119	36
Leicester	42	15	22	5	71	91	35
Southend	43	11	21	11	70	99	35
Southampton	42	11	22	9	59	77	31
Bristol City	43	10	28	8	63	109	28

RESULTS

NORTH HERTS LEAGUE: Div. 1, Whitwell 3, Kimpton 0.

LEIGHTON CHALLENGE CUP: Final, Leighton United 2, Blechley Town 2.

FRIENDLY

Filtwick Ramblers 3, Filtwick Rovers 0.

Reserves 1, Linslade Juniors 4, Leighton Thursdays 1.

Linslade Jrs. 1, Penny Stratford Jrs. 0.



EASTER FOOTBALL.—Luton supporters took full advantage of the holiday period to see the Town at home to Millwall and Bristol Rovers. They certainly had full value for their money on Easter Monday!