

PAYNE AND BALL

SCORED FINE GOALS AGAINST BRISTOL ROVERS

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN merited their success at the expense of BRISTOL ROVERS, at Luton, and so scored their eighth consecutive home victory. It was a hard game throughout, with the Town the more aggressive, but unable to make the most of their fine work in midfield because of the strength of the Rovers' defence. The Rovers played on the defensive almost throughout, though their forwards made dangerous raids, and, during one period of the second half, threatened to draw level.

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FROM THE KICK-OFF Luton were immediately aggressive, and there was swing and dash in their onslaughts that promised desperate work for the Rovers' defence, and it was fairly well maintained. Ball shot over when well placed, and, after Hartill had been repelled at the other end, the Rovers' goal was in dire trouble, the Town left wing several times broke through, and two or three corners were forced. Finlayson shot just too high, and Payne was crowded out when he tried hard to turn the ball into the net from Hodge's pass.

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ROBERTS took another pass from Stephenson, and drove in at great speed, but Ellis saved magnificently, and a little later Roberts was just wide with a fast ground shot. Butterworth caused anxiety by nippy runs, and, at the other end, Ball shot over with a first-time effort. The Rovers' backs were working hard, and both did fine service, while Ellis made clever saves. A strong drive by Houghton tested Dolman, and then Stephenson bored through, but Ellis anticipated his pass and saved.

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NEARING THE INTERVAL the Town pressed hotly, and all the forwards swarmed round the Rovers' goal, and shots came from each of them. About a minute before the whistle went for the interval the Town left wing assailed strongly, and Ball headed forward a centre; Ellis rushed from goal and spoilt Hodge's effort, but the ball went to PAYNE, who crashed it home in wonderful fashion.

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Ellis was frequently tested in the early stages of the second half, and Ball shot over when he seemed bound to score. Tweed and Preece each cleared well, and Stephenson shot well wide when he was right through, and only Ellis to beat. Ellis dived to save finely from Ball at the foot of the post, and more corners were forced, but the Rovers never relaxed their fine efforts in defence, and the Town were beaten off.

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BUTTERWORTH was in the picture with clever work, but there was a thrill when a centre from Raven flashed across goal, and Dolman had to run out and block a shot from Sullivan, who was given outside. On another occasion, he came out, but the ball did not travel quickly, and Hartill got to it, and lifted it only just wide of the empty goal. The Town renewed their assaults, and Hodge twice lifted the ball into the goal area, but Ellis saved well from a crowd of players.

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SULLIVAN and Butterworth made good runs, and Dolman saved at full length



FRED ROBERTS

from the latter, and then Roberts raced through to the other end, and gave Ellis another opportunity to make a grand save. Payne took a nice pass from Hodge, but, as he bored in, he got his foot too far under the ball, and it sailed over the bar. Sullivan was again dangerous, and, after running right through, he shot wide.

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FROM THE FINEST BOUT of passing seen in the match, the Town went further ahead. Fellowes, Roberts, Ball, and Stephenson each had a part, and the last-named darted past all opposition almost to the goal-post and then tapped the ball gently to BALL, who fired in a terrific shot which Ellis hardly saw. The Rovers were undismayed, and strove hard to get a goal, but they were frustrated, and the Town were always more potential scorers, but they did not add to their lead.

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FEW MISTAKES were made by the defences of either side, and all the backs kicked and tackled strongly. Ellis had far more work than Dolman, and both made good saves. The Town had a pull at half-back, because they gave more assistance to their forwards, and were able to keep the ball down better. The Town's attack was not consistent, but had pace, and showed some improvement. Ball especially, but Payne was the danger man of the line, while, on the other side, Butterworth was best.

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LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

BRISTOL ROVERS.—Ellis; Tweed, Preece; Raven, McLean, McArthur; Butterworth, Mills, Hartill, Houghton, Sullivan.

Referee.—G. Hamilton-Jones, Woolwich.