

BALL LEADS LUTON TO VICTORY

DESPITE WEAK SHOOTING

Luton Town 2, Bristol Rovers 0

BRISTOL ROVERS made a gallant effort to retrieve their reputation at Luton, and, while they could not avoid defeat, they kept the divisional leaders hard at it all the time.

Luton were certainly the better side, much more aggressive, and with efficient marksmen they might have run up a considerable tally of goals. But, with Payne "policed" thoroughly, goals were always difficult against a defence that kicked and tackled hard and never shirked the heat of battle.

Payne scored just before the interval with a magnificent shot taken from an acute angle after Ellis had dashed out to foil Hodge. Ball got the other goal ten minutes before the end after a brilliant run by Stephenson, who tapped the ball inside to leave the former with the simplest of openings.

Many other opportunities came their way, but the Ball was either too tame or into the safe hands of Ellis or skied.

Dolman's Great Saves

Luton's understanding between halves and attack gave them the better of the exchanges, but there were periods when the Rovers made severe threats, and Dolman brought off two wonderful saves by smothering the ball.

Fellowes and Finlayson were clever links between Luton's defence and attack, and behind them, Mackey, Smith and Nelson were usually safe. The forwards were patchy, sometimes moving with machine-like precision, and at others failing completely. Payne was again the live-wire forward, and Ball led the line well.

On the Rovers' side most interest centred in the appearance of the new winger, Butterworth, secured the previous night from Preston North End. He is a lad of parts, and no other forward was so troublesome to the Luton defence, though Sullivan was a nippy winger, too.

McLean's purely defensive game was sound, and both Tweed and Preece did yeoman service, while Ellis was safe.

Luton: Dolman, Mackey, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Hodge, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Bristol Rovers:—Ellis, Tweed, Preece, Raven, McLean, McArthur, Butterworth, Mills, Hartill, Houghton, Sullivan.