

Stobbart's Dazzling Spell Beat Rovers

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN ... 5 BLACKBURN ROVERS 2

Accustomed to near famine so far as goals are concerned, the Kenilworth-road habitués, down by nearly 50 per cent. because of the heavy rain, were both shaken and delighted by the goal rush they saw in the closing stages of the first half on Saturday.

Man who brought it about was George Stobbart, who after completing a hat-trick in six minutes, went on to bring his total to four in nine minutes.

No more dramatic triumph has been achieved by a Town player since the war, and the crowd simply rose to the muddy figure of Stobbart as he left the field at the interval.

Some of the applause was for his team-mates, too, for they had given the support that led to the goals, and Stobbart was the first to pay tribute to the way openings were made for him.

For all that, he was the man who supplied the finishing power, and each of his four goals was brilliantly and decisively taken.

Before this spell, which began in the 34th minute, the Rovers had not been discernibly inferior to the Town, and they must have had high hopes of turning around on level terms.

STOBBART dashed all those, and the Rovers went off the field in disconsolate fashion facing arrears of 4-0.

That they had the capacity to fight back under such a handicap was commendable.

If the Town had any thought of taking things easy in the second half—and such was not the case, for their last instructions before resuming were to keep on top—they received a distinct jolt when WHARTON scored for the Rovers after 4 minutes.

A SIMPLE GOAL

It was a simple sort of goal and Wharton seemed to drift into the middle of the field almost unnoticed to put the ball past Streten from point-blank range.

Soon afterwards, the Town were four up again when Walsh showed great perseverance in chasing a loose ball down the left wing. He centred low, and the ball went into the net of BELL, as he attempted to get it under control.

Rovers, by virtue of moving the ball about, kept pegging away, and managed to gain a large share of the play for some time. WESTCOTT headed a neat goal after Taylor, in attempting to clear, had merely sent the ball to Bell, and that proved to be the end of the scoring.

In the second half, the Town never regained their earlier superiority, partly because the mud at the Oak-road end had become a thick morass, and partly because they adopted the wrong tactics in keeping the ball too close.

For all that, it was a splendid win which should go a long way towards restoring the confidence of the forwards in front of goal.

PROMISE OF WYLDDES

Apart from the deadly marksmanship of Stobbart, the next most pleasing thing about the forward line was the promising display given by Wyldes, who was particularly prominent in the first half, and showed not the least sign of being over-awed by the occasion, which was his League debut.

Glover positively scintillated in the first half, and against a less capable full-back than Eckersley, would have run riot.

As it was, he was more than enough for the Rovers' defence, but he, too, was not so much in the picture in the second half.

Chief among Walsh's virtues was his industry, for he chased everything with unflagging energy, but Taylor had a very moderate sort of day, and never seemed to get going.

Despite the fact they conceded two goals, the defence had a good day in trying circumstances, and there was no weakness here.

Streten was safe in goal, Cooke was a little more assertive than Aherne, and taking the game through, Watkins was the more constructive wing half, though Gardiner, as usual, got through a tremendous amount of work, especially in his close marking of Crossan.

Owen settled down to play a very strong game, and did very well against the burly Westcott.

Luton Town.—Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Gardiner; Glover, Stobbart, Walsh, Taylor, Wyldes.

Blackburn Rovers.—Patterson; Gray, Eckersley; Campbell, Suart, Bell; Wharton, Crossan, Westcott, Priday, McCaig.

Attendance.—9,513.