

Hopes Of A Point Dashed By Rovers' Late Goal

By Chiltern

BLACKBURN ROVERS 2 LUTON TOWN 1

Pitchforked straight from the quagmires they have been facing for several weeks on to going that was entirely different and altogether the most difficult with which they have been faced this season, the Town showed considerable adaptability at Ewood Park on Saturday.

They looked the happier on the treacherous surface which was formed of a thin coating of snow over icy turf, and had there been more decisiveness in their finishing they would have escaped defeat, at least.

They nearly did that as it was and there were many among the 25,000 crowd who considered that justice was scarcely done by the result and that a draw would have been an equable result.

That two teams could put up such an entertaining game in the existing conditions was a matter for considerable praise and, in the end, the spoils went to the Rovers because they had a little more punch in their front line.

Not until six minutes from the end, though, did their winning goal come, and then it was some bright work by the English International, Eckersley, that led to WHARTON heading through from point-blank range.

Both teams had their spells of superiority, but the Rovers were slightly more prone to have a crack at goal than were the Town, who often worked the ball beautifully up to the region of the penalty area and then saw their work fizzle out.

NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS

There were notable exceptions, such as the sizzling, low cross-shot with which MITCHELL put the Town on level terms 13 minutes from the interval, following a move begun by Watkins and in which Davies made the final pass.

Davies at that stage was leading the attack to good effect, and he gave Elvey one of his most difficult tasks with a cracking drive soon after that success.

Somewhat against the run of play, the Rovers had taken the lead two minutes from the interval through NIGHTINGALE.

He was left with quite a simple chance when the ball rebounded sharply from Owen to Dunne, who could not clear, and Nightingale did the rest. Owen had stopped a shot from Bell that looked booked for the net.

For much of the first half the Town moved with great precision, and they had chances of going ahead before the Rovers did so.

DEFENCE WAS SOUND

There was clever work from both Turner and Taylor, while Davies was a lively raider, but Mitchell was not given many

chances by the close marking of Suart.

Similarly, not much was seen of Stobbart whilst he was in the middle, and during his two brief spells at centre-forward Davies caused the more trouble to the Rovers' defence.

No weak link could be detected in a hard-fighting defence in which there was much strength in the middle line, where Watkins gave a sparkling display.

Owen saw to it that Holmes had few chances, and played consistently well throughout, and Morton completed a solid line.

Both full-backs were most adequate, with Aherne's kicking being the more clear-cut, and apart from some difficulty experienced at times in handling the lively ball, Streten came through creditably.

BLACKBURN ROVERS: Elvey; Suart, Eckersley; Campbell, Kelly, Clayton; Wharton, Crossan, W. Holmes, Nightingale, Bell.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Davies, Turner, Stobbart, Taylor (J.), Mitchell.

Referee: W. R. Barnes, Birmingham.