

DRAMA AT THE END

BLACKBURN ROVERS 1

LUTON TOWN 1

Five minutes from the end, the Town seemed destined to go down to another single-goal defeat at Blackburn on Saturday, but, five minutes later, they not only walked off the field with a point but had come within inches of "stealing" both.

Man who saved the day was Mitchell, playing against one of his former clubs, and he rounded off a movement that developed quickly between Davies and Moore after Eckersley had made a mistake.

When the ball came across from Davies, MITCHELL quickly got it under control and steered it well clear of Elvy.

With only a minute or so remaining, Blackburn had a narrow escape when Kelly's back pass eluded Elvy, and only by a super-human effort did the goalkeeper manage to recover and smother the ball on the line.

Moore was close up, but was a split second too late to help it over the line before Elvy got there.

Even then the excitement did not end, for, in a desperate last-minute raid, Crossan made a terrific shot that Baynham saved in great style.

The brilliance of Baynham, combined with the fact that the Rovers' shooting could have stood a good deal of improvement, was the main reason why the Town remained in a position from which they could snatch a late equaliser.

Often, their goal seemed to be on the brink of downfall, but this combination defeated all the efforts of the Rovers, and Baynham made a deep impression on the crowd of 25,000 by his sure handling of the ball, his agility and his anticipation.

He was only beaten once, and that was from the penalty spot in the 33rd minute when ECKERSLEY made no mistake after Dunne had been adjudged to have fouled Crossan.

Many people were of the opinion that no offence had been committed, and the Town's appeals were of no avail. To me there seemed no grounds for the referee's decision.

In fact there seemed more foundation to the Town's claim early in the match that Moore had been brought down from behind when he looked a likely scorer.

It was during this early period that the Town were seen at their best and, for about a quarter of an hour, they looked as if they were due for another big win over the Rovers.

Although the chances were there, the goals would not come. Elvy made a great save from Watkins, Moore missed a couple of good opportunities, and Pye hit the side-net when well placed.

Once they settled down, though, the Rovers had more of the play, and the Town defence were kept busy for long periods. When they scored it was no more than their due and they, too, missed chances.

They continued to be the more powerful side in attack after the interval, and there did not seem to be much prospect of the Town retrieving a point until the goal actually came.

There was another below-par showing from the Town forwards, with Pye too well-marked and receiving too little support to create the havoc he did in the two previous meetings between the teams.

Neither inside-forward was consistent, and Moore had a bleak afternoon, particularly with his shooting.

Had Mitchell continued in his early form, he could have been the match-winner, and Davies gave quite a reasonable display on his return to the team.

Again, the defence was the stronger part of the team, with Dunne showing an improvement on his Bury form, and Pemberton, although inclined to give Campbell too much room, again looking the part of a polished full-back.

There was defensive strength in the middle line, and although Hall could not be said to have taken a grip on Quigley, he prevented the centre-forward from scoring.

BLACKBURN ROVERS :
Elvy; Suart, Eckersley; Clayton (R.), Kelly, Bell; Campbell, Crossan, Quigley, Wright, Glover.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Pemberton; Morton, Hall, Owen; Davies, Moore, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.