

MAKING HIS FINAL HOME APPEARANCE

Goals Worth Weight In Gold To Luton

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN - 2, BRISTOL ROV. - 0

NO finer last home appearance before he sails to settle in South Africa next month could be imagined for Charlie Watkins than to score the two goals that reinstate the Town as leaders of the Second Division after their victory over Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth-road last night.

Those goals could be worth their weight in gold to the Town for they have brought First Division football materially nearer.

The 20,099 excited supporters saw a rough and tumble game, full of tensions.

It was a little ominous from the Town point of view that they finished the game with Turner nursing an injured shoulder.

The Town forced the Rovers back on the defensive immediately, the forwards playing spirited, go-ahead football.

Turner narrowly missed connecting with a low pass from

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
LUTON T.	41	22	8	11	85	53	52
Stoke	41	21	10	10	69	44	52
Rotherham	40	24	4	12	88	62	52
Birmingham	40	21	9	10	85	44	51
Leeds	41	22	7	12	67	52	51

MacEwan, and then brought Chandler full length at the foot of the post with a great drive.

After six minutes the Town were a goal up through WATKINS, who coolly shot through from close range following a pass by Pemberton, who had been sent away by MacEwan.

Two or three Rovers' raids were driven off before danger could threaten, and then MacEwan ended a run with a terrific drive that Chandler beat out.

BAYNHAM HURT

Misfortune befell the Town with 11 minutes gone. Baynham received a cut over the eye and while he was on the ground Meyer banged the ball into the net but the goal was disallowed.

There was a long stoppage while the goalkeeper was attended to but he carried on without having to leave the field.

After MacEwan had sent not more than a foot wide the Rovers made a sharp breakaway in which Roost produced their first direct shot, a drive from an angle that Baynham dived to hold safely.

Bamford narrowly escaped turning into his own net a low cross by Turner.

The Rovers were relying a lot on dash and bustle, and in attack were seldom getting to the point from which they could make a shot.

Biggs tried one from nearly 30 yards that was a bit too close for comfort, but the more threat was still coming from the Town.

One split-second of anxiety came when Baynham was almost deceived by an unexpected shot by Sampson and the ball nearly crept in under his body.

OVER-ANXIOUSNESS

There were signs of over-anxiousness from the Town team, due to the occasion, which produced a tense atmosphere.

Passes were going astray and the attack, despite the bustling energy of MacEwan, had lost a lot of its early sparkle.

Just before half-time another goal to the Town seemed to be in prospect when Pemberton was left with a chance close in but his shot was deflected for a corner by Bamford. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN		1
BRISTOL ROVERS		0

WATKINS AGAIN

Following some preliminary attacks by the Rovers, the Town settled down, and WATKINS, after 49 minutes, increased their lead with a beautiful rising drive from 25 yards that beat Chandler all the way.

He made the goal for himself by taking the ball off Petherbridge in a tackle. It was a spectacular effort that "brought the house down" and relieved a lot of the tension.

Before the restart Owen came across to the trainer's bench for attention to his foot, but was absent for only a minute.

For a time the hard-fighting Rovers hit back but still without looking potential scorers.

There followed a period in which the Town forwards could not make much progress against some grim tackling by the Rovers' defence, who were also intercepting a lot of passes by coming in to meet the ball.

Rather tending to be thrown back on the defensive, the

Town had lost the initiative, and after Baynham had pushed away a long shot, Dunne rushed across the goal to prevent Biggs from getting in one.

It was still a hard, often robust struggle, with the Rovers fighting to get the goal that would put them back into the game.

Turner was badly brought down and injured by Pitt in making a dash for goal, a happening that produced the slow handclap and booing all around the ground.

There had been earlier signs of roughness creeping in, and Turner had to go off the field for attention.

With only 10 men, the Town put on pressure, and then Turner returned to outside-right, holding his right shoulder somewhat ruefully.

A fine effort by MacEwan, shooting first time, missed the post by inches.

There was more booing and slow handclapping, this time caused by the referee's refusal to award a penalty when MacEwan was tripped and injured his back.

MacEwan resumed shaken.

Teams:

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, MacEwan, Watkins, Pemberton.

BRISTOL ROVERS: Chandler; Bamford, Allcock; Pitt, Warren, Sampson; Petherbridge, Biggs, Roost, Meyer, Watling.