

A SHOOTING LESSON BY COACH WATKINS

By CHARLES BUCHAN

Luton Town 2 Bristol Rovers 0

CHARLIE WATKINS, emergency inside-left, put Luton on top of the Second Division with a fractionally superior goal average to Stoke with two well-taken goals.

Until recently Watkins has been coaching Luton's youngsters, but injuries forced manager Dally Duncan to recall him for the last two games. The move has paid dividends.

Watkins, originally an inside-forward, had been converted into a great wing-half. Back in his old place, he schemed most of Luton's attacks.

His well-timed passes gave Peter MacEwan, South African centre-forward, plenty of chances, and he responded well, though lacking a little in speed.

The makeshift Luton attack did well, though I am doubtful if the line would be even moderately successful if they were promoted to the First Division.

Safe, accurate

I have no qualms about the defence. Luton's half-backs were the strength of the side. Bob Morton, Sid Owen and Wally Shanks rarely put a foot or head wrong.

Behind them Bud Aherne gave a polished display of accurate kicking, and Ron Baynham was safe and sure.

Luton were more dangerous in front of goal during the first half. The thrust of the powerfully-built MacEwan often had Rovers defenders worried. In the seventh minute he neatly lofted the ball to Pemberton, who centred for Watkins to shoot calmly into the Rovers' net.

Three minutes after the restart Watkins struck the decisive blow. His left-foot shot from 20 yards passed high over Chandler, rather short for a goalkeeper, just underneath the crossbar.

It was learned after the game that Gordon Turner, who received an injury in the second half, to his shoulder, had been sent to hospital for an X-ray.

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

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