

BEGAN WITH A GOOD WIN

BLACKBURN ROVERS 0
LUTON TOWN 2

Deservedly, the Town opened their holiday programme with a win at Ewood Park, where they found the Cup Finalists in cautious, edgy mood, obviously more concerned with keeping out of injury trouble than with striving for two points.

Yet, the Rovers had their chances early on when the Town were obviously keyed up, and Dougan missed a couple of simple opportunities.

When the Town got over the initial stages, they settled down to play better football, and McBRIDE put them ahead with a grand header from Bingham's centre after 22 minutes.

After that, they played some attractive stuff, and BINGHAM put them in a strong position two minutes from half-time with a well-placed lobbed shot into the far corner of the net from Turner's pass.

In between, Blackburn missed a penalty when Baynham pushed Douglas's shot on to the bar after Dunne had brought down McLeod.

So poor were the Rovers that the slow handclap broke out at



Billy Bingham

times, and the only time the Town were in real trouble was when Dobing shot from close range and Baynham made a magnificent save.

By retaining possession of the ball and moving it about in mid-field, the Town prevented the Rovers from making real progress and they were comfortable winners in the end.

CUMMINS IN FORM

Man who did as much as anyone to effect this improvement was Cummins, who gave one of his old-time displays in which he sprayed passes with great accuracy.

Turner, too, was much in evidence, and McBride, though he tended to keep too close to Woods, always needed careful watching.

There was plenty of fight and chasing from Noake, who, however, was seldom able to make ground, and Bingham, apart from his hand in both goals, was in rather quiet mood.

Both Morton and Brown got through a tremendous amount of work successfully, and Pacey overcame an uneasy sort of start.

Neither Dunne nor Hawkes looked completely happy, but although they made mistakes they managed to remedy them somehow, while Baynham gave a flawless display.

BLACKBURN RVRS: Jones; Bray, Whelan; Clayton, Woods, McGrath; Douglas, Crowe, Dougan, Dobing, McLeod.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes (K); Morton, Pacey, Brown; Bingham, Turner, McBride, Cummins, Noake.

Referee: J E Carr, Sheffield.

Attendance: 22,500.

Luton Town v Blackburn Rovers

"This was an insult to the intelligence of the football public. Cup Finalists Blackburn did just enough to keep out of injury trouble, and Luton, disorganised by sweeping changes, looked what they are—a team destined for the Second Division."—"Daily Mail."

"Luton? They would have produced the football if they had been capable of doing so, but manager Sid Owen's sweeping changes brought no improvement. It's sad . . . but Luton look resigned to their fate. Passes went anywhere and everywhere. And, apart from a couple of shots by Joe McBride, Luton never seemed likely to add to the goal they scored early on."—"News Chronicle."