

LUTON FLOUNDER IN THE MUD

60/61

Bristol Rovers 4, Luton Town 1

THIS was an uneven struggle at Bristol between two sides haunted by relegation fears. Rovers delighted their supporters with a most heartening display to romp home as easily as the score suggests. Indeed, they even netted Luton's only goal. It was their first win since December 10.

Centre of interest was Rovers' new signing from Cardiff City, left-winger John Watkins, once with Bristol City. Rovers are glad he is "back home."

He had an exciting debut for them and had a part in the first three goals.

Watkins paved the way for this convincing victory. He played a penetrating game on the left-wing while his long accurate passes to Petherbridge on the Rovers' wing often had the Luton defence going the wrong way.

A Lean Time

Luton floundered in the centre mudflats, and were so completely overwhelmed that they failed to get in one direct shot in the first-half. In contrast with the Rovers, the Luton side tried to attack through the middle, but Turner, although facing deputy centre-half Joe Davis, had a lean time.

Luton were overwhelmed in all departments, and even Baynham had a nightmare time in goal and was unhappy under pressure. Kelly, their centre-half, and Bramwell at left-back took the brunt of the attacks, but throughout the Rovers dictated the terms.

The goals were scored by Bradford, in the 18th and 86th minutes, and Petherbridge and Hooper in the 24th and 53rd minutes. Luton had only two direct shots in the second half. From one of them Radford beat out a low shot by Turner 10 minutes from the end, and as Mabbutt raced back to the rescue, the ball rebounded off him and into the net.

Bristol Rovers: Radford; Hillard, Frowen; Sykes, Davis, Mabbutt; Petherbridge, Jones, Bradford, Hooper, Watkins.

Luton: Baynham; Dunne, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Groves; Walden, Ashworth, Turner, Cummins, Fleming.

Referee: Mr. J. K. Taylor (Wolverhampton).