

LUTON LIKE OLD SOLDIERS —THEY SLOWLY FADE AWAY

Bristol Rovers 1 Luton 0: by CHARLES WATSON

IAN HAMILTON, a 20-year-old part-timer who finishes an engineering apprenticeship in a fortnight's time, gave lowly Rovers a much needed win over promotion-chasing Luton. His one goal in the 62nd minute was only the final mark on a fine performance which lasted the whole 90 minutes.

Right through he was a big thorn in the Luton flesh. He popped all over the field, in defence one moment and up near goal the next, and his shrewd use of the ball often had the Luton defence in difficulties.

During the first 15 minutes Luton played as though they would win at a canter and they were unfortunate in not being a couple of goals up at the end of that spell.

With Pacey doing well in mid-field and their forwards moving with skill and understanding, they attacked again and again.

But the nearest they got to success was a header from centre-forward Ashworth which came out again off the crossbar, and four other shots which brought fine saves from Radford.

Gradually, as they settled down, the Rovers' wing-halves came into their own, and former Millwall player Bumstead, in his first home match for Rovers, improved steadily as the game progressed.

Centre-forward Bradford, the Rovers' leader, had an off day, and was guilty of three bad misses, but there were times when, with the Luton pressure at its height, his

experience and cool brain came in more than useful.

Luton staged a desperate rally which almost brought success a minute from the end when right-winger Walden ran through to hit a post with his shot.

The Rovers defence looked desperate, but they managed to survive, partly because the Luton forwards were inclined to play their game too square and to make insufficient use of the through ball.

Standen, in the Luton goal, made two particularly fine saves from Watkins and Hooper, who formed an effective left flank for Rovers, but was beaten completely by two shots from Hooper which sped just by a post.

Hamilton had the chances to save the Rovers an anxious five minutes. He was only five yards out and unmarked when Hooper's centre landed at his toe, but somehow managed to stab the ball wide.