

LUTON THRUST ROVERS OUT

61/62

Turner snaps up Radford's gift

Luton 2 Bristol Rovers...0

ONE of football's ironies is contained in the relegation of Bristol Rovers. The penultimate blow was struck them by their manager Bert Tann's former club Charlton on Monday; Luton, of whom Tann's former teammate Sam Bartram is in charge, dealt the knockout blow.

From the third minute, when Radford made Turner a present of the first vital goal which silenced the little band of Bristol enthusiasts the doors of the Third Division were yawning wide open to receive them.

Had Luton really possessed punch in attack they could have piled on goals during the early stages when Rovers' defence made mistake after mistake and twice nearly put through their own goal. In attack there was no one to hold the ball and pace the game.

When Ashworth added a second goal after 18 minutes for Luton, Rovers looked well and truly beaten. Yet if luck had been on their side they could have got back into the game when a great drive by Jones smacked against the inside of a post and came back into play.

Disastrous finale

From Luton this was understandable, but one expected some sort of a spark from Rovers. Instead they muddled on, hoping for the best and their one clear-cut chance was delayed until the last minute. Then to complete the disaster Bumpstead, from five yards, shot over an empty goal.