



● No danger here for Bristol Rovers as goalkeeper Howard Radford soars to punch clear from Luton's Dave Pacey at Kenilworth-road . . . but Radford was beaten twice, so down to Division III go Rovers.

A 'GIFT' GOAL—THEN LUTON JUST AMBLE TO VICTORY

Luton 2 Bristol Rovers 0: by GRAHAM BUXTON

IT was obvious at Luton why Bristol Rovers will be in the Third Division next season. Jittery and ponderous in defence, they never recovered from the deadly effects of an early goal against them and their forwards never had the imagination or the scheming power to beat down a strong Luton defence.

Welsh goalkeeper Howard Radford just about sealed Rovers' fate in the third minute when he mis-kicked a goal kick straight to Gordon Turner standing just outside the penalty area. Turner is too old a campaigner to let go a gift like this and he slipped through a flat-footed defence to put the ball firmly into the back of the net.

After that Rovers never regained their composure nor the dash they showed in the opening seconds when they nearly snatched a shock goal.

Just how upset their defence was was plainly seen when Davis nearly put through his own goal, and when Hillard, taking a goalkick, nearly repeated the mistake of Radford.

Just when Rovers were showing some sign of settling down, Luton struck again when Alec Ashworth turned a centre from Clarke past the unsighted Radford.

Apart from bad luck when Bobby Jones hit the inside of a post, that was Rovers' deathknell, because although Luton were no great side themselves, they were certainly more constructive in attack.

Determined though they were, Rovers in a muddled second half

never found smoothness. This was mainly a story of pushing and shoving in which Luton did their share.

Had Luton showed more steadiness in front of goal they could have increased their lead when Turner, Fleming, and Ashworth shot wide.

Not until a minute from the end when all was lost anyway, did that sort of opportunity come the way of Rovers and then Graham Sykes somehow shot over from six yards.

Wing half Dave Pacey, pushed into the attack again, looked as constructive an inside forward as Luton have had for some time. However, their victory mainly served to emphasise their desperate need for new forwards.

However, they can be quite happy about their defence in which Kelly again shone.