

16-11-63



● It isn't all gian-killing and glory for the little club-men. Spare a thought for goalkeeper Len Beal (above) who deflected a Luton shot-cum-centre into his own net. And Bridgwater lost. Smith (Luton) and Packer (Bridgwater, stripes) are the watchers.

LUTON PRIDE IS SAVED

Bridgwater 0, Luton 3

By BILL MARSH

NINETEEN minutes from the end Tommy McKechnie got Luton's third goal and sealed the Western League team's fate. The goal didn't come a moment too soon for Luton, who never looked confident of victory.

It came from a breakaway as did McKechnie's first goal six minutes earlier. And at this stage the Bridgwater's part-timers were giving Luton everything they had got—and the Third Division team's defence looked worried.

But Luton's defence, pretty sound throughout, survived, and the side went on to win because they seized their chances better.

Luton took time to adjust themselves to the atmosphere of the small ground and conditions made worse by steady rain. In the first-half Bridgwater paid Luton more respect than they deserved.

A lucky break gave Luton their first goal. Gordon Turner, wandering out to the right, crossed the ball. Len Beal dived, but just failed to hold the slippery ball and it rolled back inside the post.

Awe-inspiring

After the interval Bridgwater, as though realising the opposition was not so awe-inspiring, put on the pressure.

Ron Baynham produced a wonderful save when a goal might have changed the course of events. With the crowd—previously so silent—now roaring them on, Bridgwater were really on top.

Then came Luton's two break-aways. "They deserved to win," said Bridgwater manager Bill Brown, "but my lads gave them a good game." He was so right.

BRIDGWATER—Beal 7; Oliphant 7, Griffiths 6; Scott 7; Packer 7, Rice 6; ★**THOMAS** 8, White 6, Thresher 6, Weston 6, Muxworthy 7.

LUTON.—★**BAYNHAM** 8; Morton 7, Bramwell 5; Pacey 6, Fincham 7, McGuffie 6; Fairchild 7, Smith 5, Turner 5, McKechnie 6, Jardine 5.

Referee: D. W. Smith (Stonehouse) 9.