



● *Hamilton, Bristol Rovers inside left, leaps to head the first of his hat-trick against Luton.*

PACEY BLUNDERS AS LUTON TUMBLE TO HAMILTON

Bristol Rovers 3 Luton 2: by CHARLES WATSON

IAN HAMILTON'S hat-trick, his second of the season, was sufficient to put Bristol Rovers back at the top of the table and boost the already substantial Christmas bonus in the players' pay packets.

But there was hardly sufficient in hand wholly to satisfy manager Bert Tann. Both teams, meeting hard frosty conditions for the first time this season, at times seemed ultra-cautious.

There were inevitable defensive mistakes and the biggest blunder of all gave Rovers the points. Hard working wing-half Dave Pacey was the offender—and the exploiter was jubilant Hamilton.

Harold Jarman was the man behind Hamilton's successes and his consistent danger on the right-wing presented John Bramwell with an uneasy afternoon.

It was Jarman's cross which Hamilton nodded home in the second minute. And it was a characteristically fiery free kick by the winger which Hamilton turned over the line again in the 16th minute.

Jarman always looked the one Rovers' forward who could tilt the balance. He completed his seasonal charity to Hamilton 10 minutes after the interval when his centre

was bungled by Pacey—and the Rovers inside-left jabbed the ball in with comparative ease.

Ray Whittaker scored both of Luton's goals, one by courtesy of a Dave Stone mistake. Dave Pleat was narrowly Luton's best forward, and he gave Gwyn Jones plenty of trouble in the first half.

The disparity in League positions was never obvious, although Luton's attack lacked power and ideas.

It was a strange debut for Joe Haverty on the Rovers left wing. The ex-Millwall player received meagre service and did not come into the game until midway through the second half.

Joe Davis again brought authority to a none-too-confident Rovers defence. His opposite number, Gordon Fincham, also did well against the speedy bustling Bobby Jones.