

THE SORT OF SOCCER TO BRING IN THE FANS

By **BRIAN SWAIN**, Sports Editor

IF EVERY GAME at Kenilworth Road had as much entertainment, excitement and incident as the Town and Bristol Rovers provided on Saturday the survival and prosperity of Luton Town FC would be ensured.

Although defensive mistakes and the slippery pitch played a major part in the proceedings, the fans were given just about everything they want in a football match.

Managers might have nightmares about some of the errors we saw—but the customers loved it as the Town put together their best home performance so far this season.

It deserved more than the 7,066 who paid to see a game of flowing football, six goals, and a fairy-tale debut for a teen-age goalkeeper thrust into the league side by the absence of Keith Barber.

Tony Knight, still an apprentice, shook off his nerves and became the match-winner with three spell-binding saves when Bristol Rovers pulled out all the stops for a late rally.

The Rovers could easily have salvaged a point they didn't deserve, but at the end even their manager, Don Megson, confessed that the result was right.

But he and his players were choked at the contrast between goalkeepers: while Knight had a debut day to remember, Rovers' veteran goalkeeper Jim Eadie made two vital errors which all but killed off his side's hopes.

With Brian Chambers and Lil Fuccillo again taking a grip on midfield, the Town had threatened to tear Rovers apart in a ferocious 20-minute opening burst.

Match Details

LUTON TOWN 4, BRISTOL ROVERS 2

Half-time: 2-1

TOWN: Knight; Price, Buckley, Faulkner, Paul Futcher; Chambers, West, Fuccillo; Husband, Ron Futcher, Aston. Sub: Hill, not needed.

BRISTOL ROVERS: Eadie; Day, Williams, Aitken, Taylor; Prince, Stephens, Bannister; Fearnley, Warboys, Powell. Sub: Parsons, not used.

THE GOALS: Ron Futcher for the Town, 9 minutes, punishing bad back pass by Stephens; Bruce Bannister for Rovers, 32 minutes, punishing bad back pass by Paul Futcher; John Aston, direct from 30-yard free kick, 40 minutes; Run Futcher, 47 minutes, after Eadie dropped free kick by Chambers; Warboys for Rovers, 59 minutes, unmarked for close range header from Day's free kick; Jim Husband, 67 minutes, the goal of the match, after he and Brian Chambers interpassed to open up the Rovers defence.

REFEREE: R. S. Lewis, Great Bookham, Surrey: Very good indeed. If they were all like this even Harry Haslam would be satisfied, and so would supporters.

BOOKING: Ken Prince of Rovers for telling the ref that he wasn't very good, or words to that effect.

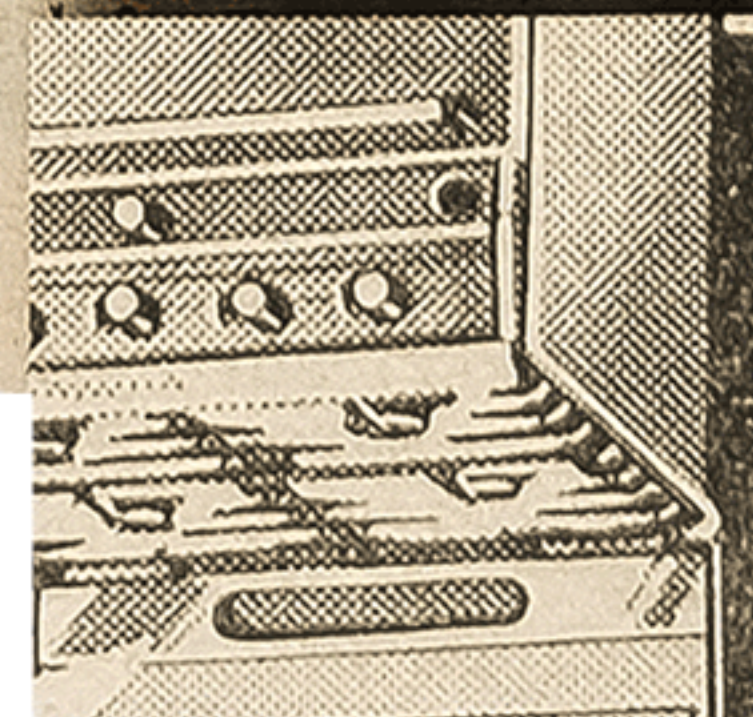
ENTERTAINMENT: Best so far this season at Kenilworth Road — plenty of excitement and enough goals to send the customers home happy.

ATTENDANCE: 7,066 — Saddest feature of the day, lowest of the season and the day's poorest turn-out in the Second Division.

John Aston reduced Graham Day to a nervous wreck — the full-back spent an incredible amount of time sitting and sliding on his backside in the mud.

Aston's speed and service ought to have brought

more goals than it did, particularly one scintillating run which spread-eagled four defenders and



WITH SIX GOALS to choose from, there was little doubt about the goal of the match: Jim Husband's cracker, pictured above by Ron Purves, which killed off the Rovers when they were trying to fight back from 3-2 down. Husband, on the extreme left, hammered the ball first-time after he and Brian Chambers had swapped passes to create the opening. The goal takes Husband level with Dixie Deans in the Town's scoring chart. Both have five, although one of Husband's was in the League Cup

END OF A LONG RUN

THE cold which put Keith Barber out of Saturday's game ended a run of 64 consecutive league appearances by the goalkeeper. He was the only Town player to take part in all 42 league games last season.

He is expected to return to the side on Saturday, with Tony Knight going to Monaco with Ricky Hill to play for England in a youth international tournament.

penalty appeals as Futcher raced in to score.

Chambers twice went war again this week, Charlie Brown went to

CHARLIE GOES BACK TO WAR

BELOW: Tony Knight, on his debut, makes one of the fine saves which helped to beat off the Rovers' late counter-attacks.



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