

LUTON FIND FORMULA

76/77

Luton 4, Bristol Rvrs 2

LUTON seem to have found the formula for success. Mixing experience with promising youth proved successful in this vital match.

The hero was 19-year-old O'Rourke, whom Chelsea allowed to go for nothing. Before Rovers had settled down, he had scored twice and Rovers never recovered from that disastrous start.

Just twice through the efforts of the strong, determined Biggs they looked as if they might recover, but Luton, prompted by the experience of Morton and Turner, recalled for the occasion, never lost control of the proceedings.

Turner got their third goal in curious circumstances. From an indirect free kick he made a grab at the ball which went in off his hands.

In the early part of the second half Luton looked like increasing their lead when O'Rourke twice went close. Rovers were always in with a chance but were lucky when Reid headed against the bar.

Luton hopes dipped when Biggs blasted in a penalty kick awarded against Bramwell 17 minutes from the end.

For a short time Rovers looked likely to pull the game out of the fire, but the Luton defence, ably generalled by Pacey, stood firm. With 11 minutes left the irrepressible O'Rourke settled it with a fine goal from a through pass by Whittaker.

Luton: Baynham; McBain; Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, Lownds; Walden, Turner, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.

Bristol Rovers: Hall; Hillard, Jones G.; Stone, Davis, Mabbutt; Jarman, Brown, Biggs, Hamilton, Jones, R.

Referee: G. D. Roper (Swaffham Prior).