

YOUNG Peter Aitken scored his first league goal to give Bristol Rovers two unimpressive points in a game of modest skills and negligible luck for Luton. In fact, most of the crowd would join the protesting Luton players in staking the claims to two penalties which the referee waved aside.

The more blatant appeared to be a tackle by Bater on Ryan when the Luton forward seemed poised to cut into a crowded goalmouth. Luton always seemed to have the edge, never made easy in the heavy, sticky conditions.

They so nearly salvaged a point in the final minute when Husband lobbed his shot wide of the far post.

Rovers, fighting to regain their shattered confidence following a 5-1 home defeat by Wolves recently, showed more discipline in defence, where the tall, experi-

Aitken saves day

By **ANDY WILSON**
Bristol Rovers 1, Luton 0

enced Taylor marshalled his back four reliably. The club's oldest professional, Parsons, also showed a welcome return to tenacious defensive form.

On a day when Eadie looked edgy and handled uncertainly, it was as well for the Rovers that Luton's forwards lacked control. Ron Futchter miskicked a first half volley and several other chances slipped away as the ball slithered on the wet surface. Strong in midfield, composed at the back, Luton always looked capable of snatching the vital goal.

But after Faulkner had headed onto the underside of the bar, Rovers came away strongly and after a useful contribution from newcomer Hamilton, Aitken slid the ball over the line.

And for a time—briefly but significantly—Luton lost their assurance. The energetic Warboys and Hamilton might both have increased the lead; but that would have been tough on an efficient, industrious Luton team who travelled home last night wondering why they never picked up at least a point.

Bristol R.: Eadie; Bater, Parsons, Aitken, Taylor, Williams, Stephens, Fearnley, Warboys, Staniforth, Hamilton. Sub: Evans.

Luton: Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, P. Futchter, Husband, West, R. Futchter, Fuchillo, Ryan. Sub: Hill.

Referee: D. Lloyd (Fernhill Hth).