

LUTON UPSET BY REFEREE'S DECISION 26/77

Bristol Rovers 1 Luton 0

LUTON left Eastville Stadium on Saturday convinced that a harsh decision by referee Dennis Howell cost them a point and gave Bristol Rovers their first victory for five weeks.

It was a tough, rugged game and after Luton had failed to make use of their early dominance, Rovers fought back to take the lead with a goal by part-time professional Ian Hamilton in the 62nd minute.

Luton produced a desperate rally in an effort to snatch the equaliser, and in the 78th minute thought they had succeeded when centre-forward Ashworth shot past Radford from close range.

But the referee disallowed the goal, awarding a free kick to Rovers for a foul on their centre-half, Pyle, by McKechnie. Luton strongly disputed the decision and it was several minutes before the kick could be taken.

Twice Hit Post

Twice right-winger Walden hit a post—once with a header and then with a stinging drive—and Luton generally did enough to deserve a share of the points.

Lowly Rovers gave a spirited performance but Luton, who certainly did not look like promotion candidates, should never have let them recover from a very shaky start.

Hamilton, playing only his fourth League game of the season, was Rovers' best forward, but the powerful drive of left-winger Hooper was the biggest threat to the visitors' defence.