

MEGSON'S 'WASTRELS' CRASH 77/78

By ROGER MALONE

Bristol Rovers 1 Luton 2

LUTON stand entertainingly among the early eye-catchers after this eventful win over Bristol Rovers.

For Rovers, there was the disappointment of a home defeat on the introduction to their supporters of a new-look side. Yet, insists manager Don Megson, Rovers will continue with their new emphasis on attack: "I've made my bed and I'll lie in it. I won't be deterred by this result."

Rovers, with new faces Barry and Hendrie to go with Tony Taylor and Randall, two other recent introductions, created more scoring chances than Luton, but paid a two-point price for wasteful finishing.

Luton, despite some careless moments in defence, showed a refreshing willingness to push men forward away from home. Rovers took a long time to work out who was going to pop up and when as Husband, Boersma and Ron Futchner interchanged continually.

Splendid goal

And when, after 20 minutes, Ron Futchner gained possession out on the right and centred, Boersma was able to ghost in, unmarked and head a splendid goal.

Then the gremlins began to appear in Luton's defence. A Buckley-Paul Futchner mix up allowed an easy equaliser for young Randall, who then missed two simple chances.

The home side's new attacking intent showed early in the second half but Luton had the last word. A slick free-kick, in which West and the hard-working Fuccillo pulled Rovers out of position, paved the way for Buckley to score the winner with a fierce shot from outside the box.

Bristol Rovers.—Thomas; Bater, T. Taylor, Day, S. Taylor, Prince, Staniforth, Barry (Hendrie, 67), Randall, Williams, Evans.

Luton: Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Fuccillo, Faulkner, P. Futchner, Husband, Hill, R. Futchner, West, Boersma (Carr 87).