

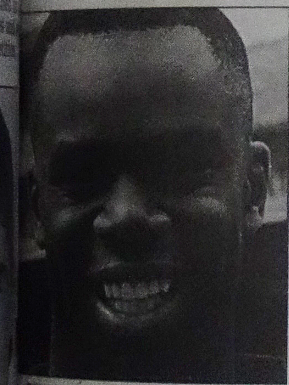
# Johnson's misery as Roberts steals in

REAMS of another money-winning run in the Worthington Cup were all but shattered for Luton Town last night.

Having reached the quarter-finals last season, they were full of optimism for the visit of Bristol Rovers, the team they trounced 3-0 the last time they met in this competition, at Kenilworth Road three years ago.

But with injuries weakening their defence Luton were undone by two goals from Jason Roberts and now face a massive task if they are to save the cup in the second leg at Bristol two weeks from now.

Hatters had a shock even before a



**SHOCKER: Marvin Johnson.**

It was kicked when they lost upper Marvin Johnson.

Johnson was on the team sheet but was injured just before the start of the game. Inexperienced Emmerson Boyce replaced him.

The first-half was full of decent play but a little scrappy.

Luton's best efforts were from the range as a strong Rovers defence packed its penalty area with players in the back.

Matthew Taylor saw a 25-yard shot saved and Stuart Douglas tried to catch Lee Jones off his line, although he beat the goalkeeper but floated too high.

Nathan Abbey made a good save with his legs to keep out a cross-shot from Robbie Pethick, but was left badly exposed when Rovers took a 10th minute lead.

Then Luton's defence had to deal with the two-man strike of Jason Roberts and Jamie Cureton

## LAST NIGHT'S ACTION

### LUTON 0 BRISTOL ROVERS 2

**HATTERS:** Nathan Abbey, Stuart Fraser, Matthew Taylor, Julian Watts, Alan White (Gary Doherty, 45 mins), Emmerson Boyce, Phil Gray, Paul McLaren, Stuart Douglas, Matthew Spring, Michael McIndoe. Other subs: Liam George, Landry Zahana-Oni, Andrew Fotiadis, Daniel Tate.

**BRISTOL ROVERS:** Lee Jones, David Pritchard, Trevor Challis, Stephen Foster, Andy Thomson, Andy Tilson, Ronnie Mauge, David Hillier, Jamie Cureton, Jason Roberts, Robbie Pethick. Subs: Robert Trees, Frankie Bennetts, Stephane Leoni, Nathan Ellington, Michel Kuipers.

Luton man-of-the-match: Matthew Taylor. Referee: Peter Jones (Loughborough).

Attendance: 2,984.

which knocked in 52 goals last season.

But Roberts used his pace and power to muscle through the middle on a solo run, brushing aside attempted tackles and beating Abbey with an expert finish.

The Luton defence had to be reshuffled again at half-time following an injury to Alan White.

Gary Doherty was sent on as replacement to play at left-centre-back.

Luton had two good chances to equalise when they raised their game early in the second-half.

Michael McIndoe split the Rovers defence with a brilliant pass to set Phil Gray free, but he wasted the opportunity by shooting over the bar.

Then a mistake by Andy Tilson allowed Gray to win possession of the ball on the edge of the penalty area and he set up Douglas for a chance which looked too good to miss.

But Douglas knocked the ball too far with his first touch and it rolled tamely into the hands of Jones.

Within a minute Rovers showed Luton how it should be done.

The Hatters defence was caught moving upfield, Tilson lobbed the ball over them and Roberts raced through to net his second goal of the game with a perfect lob.