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F.A. CUP—Round 4

SATURDAY, 27th JANUARY, 1951

LUTON TOWN v. BRISTOL ROVERS

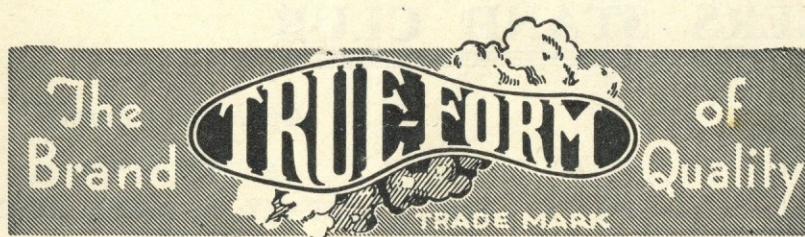
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### CLUB NOTES

WE have great pleasure in welcoming to Kenilworth Road today our redoubtable opponents, Bristol Rovers, in the Fourth Round of the F.A. Challenge Cup. We are meeting a team right on top of their form and therefore playing with that confidence which usually brings success. Certainly they are having a very successful season so far, lying second in the Third Division (South) to Nottingham Forest, with only Norwich at the moment likely to cause either any discomfort. The Rovers have a remarkable record to date, second only to their leaders, which reads as follows—of the thirteen home games played so far eleven have been won, and two drawn, goals for 28, against 8. Of their away games four have been won, five drawn, four lost, goals for 12, against 12, points 37. It will therefore be seen that of the 26 games played they have conceded only 20 goals, which shows they have a very strong defence. Also that having scored 40 goals their forwards know where the net lies. Last week at home they were one down at half-time against Brighton, but in the end finished on the right side by scoring three to the Seasiders two. It is rather surprising therefore to find that the Rovers have experienced much difficulty in winning their way through to the Fourth Round of the Cup, with some very hard matches into the bargain. In the First Round they were drawn at home to Llanelly, where they were held to a draw, as was the result of the replay at Llanelly. At these two Club's third meeting, at Cardiff, the Rovers won by two goals to one. In the Second Round, Rovers were drawn against Gillingham, and this again required a third meeting, at White Hart Lane, before Bristol emerged conquerors and this by a disputed penalty in the closing stages to again win by 2-1. On January 6th Bristol should have been playing Aldershot at home in the Third Round, but their ground was under four feet of water that day and so the game had to be postponed. After a lot of hard work, assisted by the Bristol Fire Brigade, the ground was declared fit for the match to be played on the Wednesday, and the Rovers, at the first time of asking, won fairly comfortably by five goals to one. They have therefore had a very up and down struggle to get through to this Round, but here they are today, prepared no doubt to face another marathon if need be to get through to the last sixteen.

Our lads on the other hand still have very vivid memories of that glorious battle with Pompey here three weeks ago, and while no team can rest on its laurels, such a splendid victory must help our lads feel confident of surmounting this obstacle. No

match particularly in a Cup Tie, is a walk-over for any team, and so our lads are treating this game today as if they were meeting another Portsmouth, and that is as it should be.

We feel we must make mention here—and no doubt the Rovers' fans will be saying, "Here it comes again"—of that memorable match against Bristol Rovers on this Ground on Easter Monday, 1936, when Joe Payne scored ten lovely goals. Ellis was then their goalkeeper, and a very good goalie he was too, but that day he simply could not prevent Joseph banging that ball into the net. We who saw that match remember very vividly the very fine gesture on Ellis's part, when the final whistle had blown, to run across and congratulate Payne on his remarkable achievement. A most sporting action, and one much appreciated by the crowd. That achievement still stands as a record today, and with defences playing so strongly these days, it seems it will stand for a very long time to come.

Most of you will have seen that we signed a centre forward earlier in the week who has been scoring goals consistently these last three seasons for Hastings United, in the Southern League. His name is Bernard Moore and from what we have heard about him have made a good capture here. Unfortunately he is Cup Tie barred, as he has already played in the Cup this season for Hastings, and in any case would not be playing here this afternoon as fourteen days registration is required for any player appearing in the F.A. Cup Competition at this stage. Bernard will always remember the day he signed for Luton for the very same day his wife gave birth to their first-born. We sincerely trust both events turn out for the very best for him.

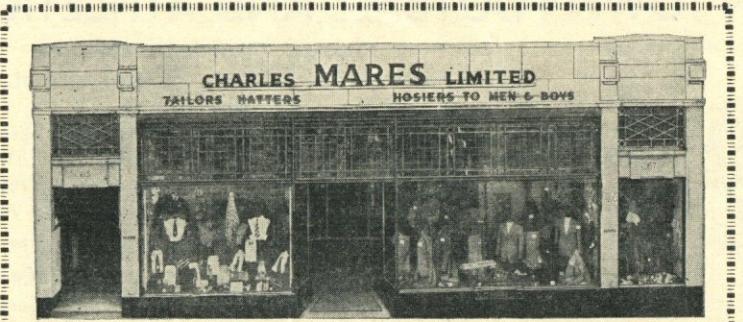
Should we get through today's match successfully the next Round will be played in two weeks time, that is on Saturday, 24th February. We have arranged with the Luton News to make an announcement in the Tuesday "Pictorial" as to prices of tickets etc., and any applications received before the issue of that paper will not be recognised. We are sorry we have had to disappoint so many applicants requiring tickets for today's game, but even after drastically cutting down those who did receive tickets there were nearly seven hundred applications for whom we simply had no tickets. The tickets available have been spread as far as we could possibly cover, and many of you have been disappointed. We have tried to be as fair as possible and we do ask you not to write in again if your application has already been turned down. Believe us we do not refuse your money because we like doing it. It is because we have no more tickets left.

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SPECTATORS ARE ASKED NOT TO CROSS THE PLAYING FIELD AFTER THE MATCH

Streten Goal  
2 COOKE or WILSON  
5 Owen Centre Half  
9 Stobart Centre  
10 Roost Inside Left  
5 Warren Centre Half  
Hoyle Goal

F.A. CUP—Round 4  
3 Aherne, T. Left Back  
6 Watkins Left Half  
10 Davie Inside Left  
11 Wyldes Outside Left  
Linesmen—  
Red Flag: Mr. W. T. WAKEFIELD (Slough)  
Orange Flag: Art. T. F. HEWINSON (Portsmouth)  
8 Bradford Inside Right  
7 Petherbridge Outside Right  
4 Pitt Right Half  
2 Bamford Right Back

Kick-Off 2.45 p.m.

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