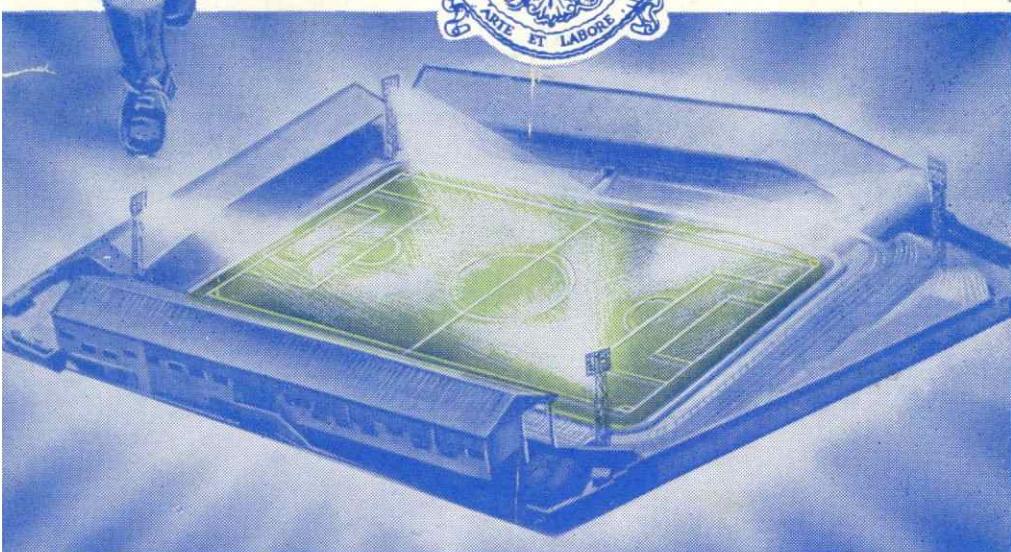




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Secretary: R. H. Taylor. Tel.: Blackburn 5634. Manager: D. Duncan.

MONDAY, APRIL 20th

MR. DUNCAN'S OLD TEAM

NEXT Saturday week Luton Town, the team managed until last October by our own chief, Mr “Dally” Duncan, will experience the biggest day in their history; their first-ever Wembley appearance. Today Ewood patrons will have a preview of the Bedfordshire Cup side, just as three weeks ago they had a preview of their final opponents, Nottingham Forest.

During Easter we took three points out of the Forest and as we have already drawn at Luton earlier this season we can do likewise with the other finalists whose eyes, not unnaturally, will be on the major event. But we should not judge today's task lightly on that account.

That game at Kenilworth-road two months after Mr. Duncan had changed clubs, saw us in the lead at the interval through a goal by Tom Johnston, and Luton equalised midway through the second half through their little Irish right winger Billy Bingham. In the very last second, as the referee raised the whistle to his lips, Johnson had a great chance of winning the match as a centre flashed across from the left. But his point-blank header passed outside the post.

Still, it was a good performance by our boys, playing with a reserve right wing pair, to bring home a point from what used to be a bogey ground. For we have never won at Luton; just as Luton have never won here.

These have been the results of all our past meetings:
AT EWOOD

Division 2			Division 2		
	Rovers	Luton		Rovers	Luton
1937-8	2	2	1951-2	2	1
1938-9	2	0	1952-3	1	1
1948-9	4	1	1953-4	2	0
1949-50	0	0	1954-5	0	0
1950-1	1	0			

Division 2			Division 2		
	Rovers	Luton		Rovers	Luton
1937-8	1	4	1951-2	1	1
1938-9	1	1	1952-3	0	6
1948-9	0	2	1953-4	1	2
1949-50	2	5	1954-5	3	7
1950-1	1	1			

Cup
1952-3 1 ... 6
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For a time after Mr. Duncan left the club had run ever since he finished his playing days, they were obviously unsettled and slid down the league table so that today they occupy only a moderate position. But they have been the surprise team of the year in the knock-out tourney and obviously have a great chance of lifting the trophy which, in a sense, would be a tribute to Mr. Duncan.

Luton have never previously gone further in the F.A. Cup than the sixth round; in 1933 and 1952. In the League they preceded us into the top grade by three seasons, finishing second to Birmingham City with equal points (54) in 1955. Rotherham United had the same pointage but missed on goal average.

The Hatters are the only team we entertain this season whom we have never previously met here in the First Division. When they paid their last visit, in April, 1955, we ourselves were leading the Division Two table, with already a century of goals to our name. In a goalless draw, it was only the second time that season the Rovers had failed to score in a League match. A week later we dropped to sixth place, and that is where we finished.

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To show how quickly (especially in our case) personalities change, these were the teams that day:

Rovers: Elvy; Smith, Eckersley; Clayton (R.), Stuart, Bell; Mooney, Crossan, Briggs, Quigley, Langton.

Luton Town: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Adam.

This was a vital match to both clubs and quarter of an hour after the interval Bobby Langton, trying to "kid" Baynham into moving the wrong way to a penalty kick, stubbed his toe and shot wide.

UNLUCKY ROY

WHEN we go to Birmingham for Wednesday night's deferred game we shall not, after all, be deprived of one of our key forwards through the international match in Belfast. All the same, we think Roy Vernon has been unlucky not to have been recalled to the Welsh attack after the consistently good football he has played with us all season.

He has several times previously been honoured by his country, sometimes when his club form has been below its best, but nobody could have more richly earned recognition for this match. However, at 22 Roy has plenty of time in which to win back favour with his country's selectors.

At one time we had another candidate for the Belfast game too. But on the day the Irish selectors came to Ewood to watch Derek Dougan he was not only suffering the effects of a throat complaint but received an ankle injury early in the game and he was seen at a disadvantage.

A tonsil operation has since been ordered and Derek's immediate football future has become uncertain. We have not yet seen the best of him, but we are confident that his undoubted football ability will blossom next season.

Our other current internationals have all acquitted themselves well; Mick McGrath in Eire's recent win over Czechoslovakia and Ronnie Clayton and Bryan Douglas in England's Wembley win over the old foe from Scotland. Clayton was one of the strong men and Douglas provided the judicious centre from which the winner was scored.

Unfortunately, Bryan strained his right knee on the lush Wembley turf and has subsequently been once again fighting his old bogey on the treatment table.

Welcoming one of the big Cup Finalists tonight, we have an Ewood final of our own on Wednesday of next week, when those keen rivals and neighbours, Chorley and Wigan Athletic, fight it out for the Lancashire Junior Cup. We have staged several of these finals in recent years and this has the makings of one of the best ever.

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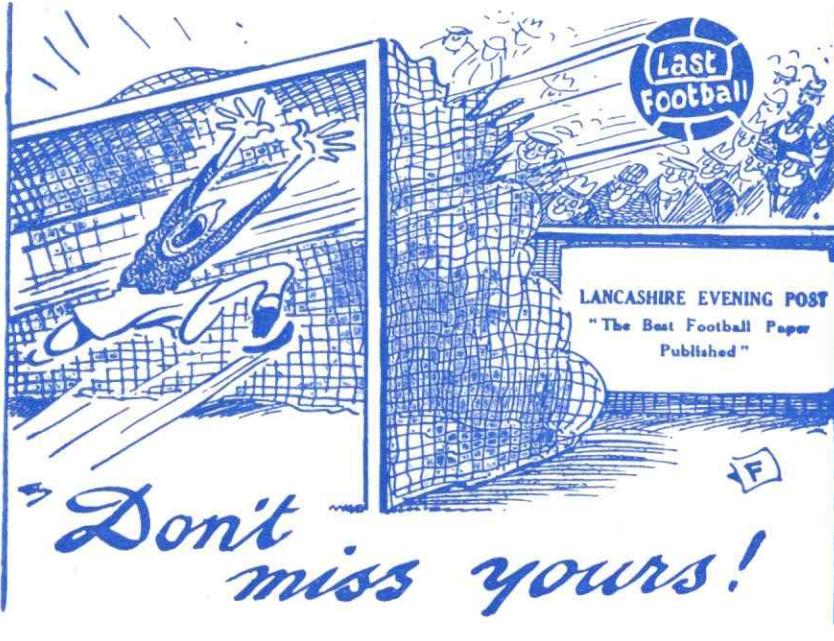
First Team Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Ground	F.	A.	25—Chelsea	26—Chelsea	27—Chelsea	28—	29—	30—
1968					25—Chelsea	26—Chelsea	27—Chelsea	28—	29—	30—
Aug.	23—Newcastle United	...	...	a	5—1	1959	...	...	...	2—0
	25—Leicester City	...	...	h	5—0	Jan.	3—Tottenham Hotspur	...	a	1—3
	30—Tottenham Hotspur	...	...	a	5—0		10—(3) Leyton Orient	...	h	4—2
Sept.	3—Leicester City	...	...	a	1—1		28—(4) Burnley	...	h	1—2
	6—Manchester United	...	...	a	1—6		31—Wolverhampton Wanderers	...	a	0—5
	8—Blackpool	...	...	a	1—1	Feb.	7—Portsmouth	...	h	2—1
	13—Wolverhampton Wanderers	...	...	h	1—2		18—Aston Villa	...	a	0—1
	15—Blackpool	...	...	h	0—0		21—West Ham United	...	h	1—2
	20—Portsmouth	...	...	a	1—2		28—(6) Preston North End	...	a	2—1
	27—Aston Villa	...	...	h	2—3	Mar.	2—Manchester United	...	h	1—3
Oct.	4—West Ham United	...	...	a	3—6		7—Burnley	...	h	4—1
	11—Preston North End	...	...	h	4—1		14—(S.F.) Arsenal	...	a	1—1
	18—Burnley	...	...	a	0—0		21—Everton	...	h	2—1
	25—Arsenal	...	...	h	4—2		27—Nottingham Forest	...	h	3—0
Nov.	1—Everton	...	...	a	2—2		31—Nottingham Forest	...	a	1—1
	8—Birmingham City	...	...	h	3—2	Apl.	4—West Bromwich Albion	...	h	0—0
	15—(1) West Bromwich Albion	...	...	a	3—2		11—Leeds United	...	a	1—2
	22—Leeds United	...	...	h	2—4		18—Manchester City	...	h	...
	29—Manchester City	...	...	a	1—0		20—Luton Town	...	h	...
Dec.	6—(2) Bolton Wanderers	...	...	h	1—1		22—Birmingham City	...	a	...
	13—Luton Town	...	...	a	1—1		25—Bolton Wanderers	...	a	...
	30—Newcastle United	...	...	h	3—0	May	2—(Final).	...	...	...

GOALSCORERS:

LEAGUE: Dobing 23, Vernon 15, Johnston 14, Douglas 6, McLeod 4, Whelan 2, McGrath 1, Swindells 1, Stephenson 1, Airey 1, Dougan 1, Isherwood 1.

CUP: Dobing 2, Johnston, McLeod, Vernon, 1 each



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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

ALTHOUGH this is the last of the Rovers' home League fixtures, there is still an interesting programme of matches at Ewood Park before the season closes. The following games have yet to come:

- Apr. 22—(Wed.) Blackburn Combination, Eddleston Cup Final, 7.
- „ 23—(Thur.) Blackburn Combination, Birtwistle Cup Final, 7.
- „ 24—(Fri.) Orphanage Cup Final, 7.
- „ 25—(Sat.) Rovers Res. v. Sheffield Wed. Res., 3.
- „ 27—(Mon.) Schoolboys' Final, 7.
- „ 28—(Tues.) Lancashire League, Supplementary Competition decider (second leg) Rovers "A" v. Rochdale Res., 7-30.
- „ 29—(Wed.) Lancashire Junior Cup Final, Chorley v. Wigan Athletic, 7.
- „ 30—(Thur.) Schoolboys' Final, 7.

Plus, of course, one leg of the F.A. Youth Cup Final against either West Ham or Arsenal.

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DOBING	6
ISHERWOOD	VERNON
7	10
HUDSON	MacLEOD
9	11

Referee:
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(Hull)



Linesmen:

Red Flag—
J. Berry

Yellow Flag—
V. Booth

GREGORY	MORTON	BINGHAM
11	9	7
CUMMINS		
10		
PACEY	OWEN	GROVES
6	5	4
HAWKES		
3		
	BAYNHAM	
		LUTON TOWN

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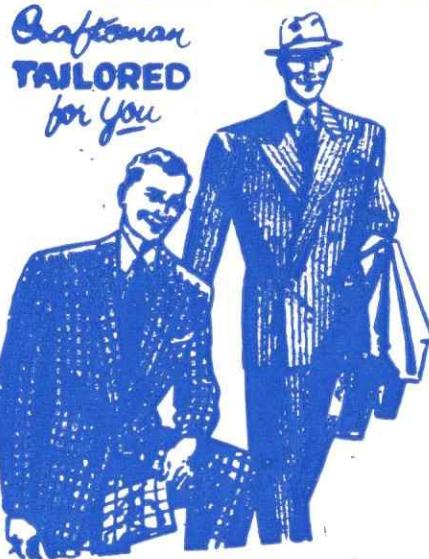
Tonight's game is of special significance for our manager, Mr. "Dally" Duncan, who was Luton's chief and team builder until November.

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(Central League)

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Kick-off 3 p.m.

Bolton W. v. Blackburn R.

Saturday, 25th April

BOLTON

	Depart	p.m.	p.m.	s. d.
RISHTON		1*22	1*54	3/1
WILPSHIRE	„	1 30	1†46	3/3
BLACKBURN	„	1 40	2 11	2/7
DARWEN	„	1 50	2 21	1/11

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* Change Blackburn in each direction.

† Change Blackburn on outward journey.

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PEN PICTURES OF LUTON TOWN

R. BAYNHAM (Goalkeeper). This tall, well-built player is one of the best keepers in the country. He first played for Worcester City and his great displays attracted the attention of many League Clubs. He joined Luton in 1951 and in the 1952-3 season displaced their international goalkeeper Bernard Stretton. This proved only the start for less than two years later Baynham had been capped for England in internationals against Denmark, Spain and Ireland.

SEAMUS DUNNE (Right Back). One of three Eire internationals on Luton's books, Dunne has been an almost automatic choice for club and country for the past four seasons. He now holds 11 caps and played in the last match against Poland in October. A native of Wicklow—he arrived at Luton via the Irish League Club Shelbourne, in 1950.

KEN HAWKES (Left Back). A player who has made considerable strides since returning to the Club after National Service in 1953. Was spotted when playing for Shotton Colliery Welfare by Club's northern scout and made a big impression. Last season made 22 first team appearances.

JOHN GROVES (Right Half). Originally an inside forward Groves has filled both centre forward and wing half positions with equal success since he joined Luton from school. Tall and fast, he distributes the ball accurately.

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SYD OWEN (Centre Half). Luton's first team centre half for many years now. An imposing figure on any soccer field he has won many representative honours including full internationals against Hungary, Yugoslavia and Belgium in 1954 since joining the Club from Birmingham City in 1947. Was originally a wing half.

DAVID PACEY (Left Half). Made his name with Hitchin Town and was still an amateur when he joined the forces. Joined Luton as a professional in August, 1956. Gained a regular first team place when Pearce moved to Sunderland last season.

BILLY BINGHAM (Outside Right). Luton paid a five-figure fee to Sunderland for the transfer of Irish International Billy Bingham last July. Has represented his country, Ireland, in every International game since 1952.

ALLAN BROWN (Inside Right). A Scottish International with 14 caps to his credit, Brown was transferred from Blackpool to Luton during the 1956-57 season. Began his League career with East Fife.

BOB MORTON (Centre Forward). Has appeared in the League side at centre forward during the last few matches but of course is well-known as one of the strongest and most consistent wing halves in the First Division. Was chosen as reserve for England versus Russia at Wembley this season.

GEORGE CUMMINS. The third of Town's Eire Internationals, Cummins joined Luton from Everton for a five-figure fee in 1953. Since then he has won ten caps, the last being against Poland in October last year.

TONY GREGORY (Outside Left). A local boy who played for Bedfordshire's youth team, earned youth caps for England and was also a member of Bedfordshire's team in the Southern Counties Amateur Championship. Is in his fourth season with the Club.

GORDON TURNER (Inside Right). A free-scoring forward. Turner scored 30 goals last season. Has played for the Football League and been a reserve for the England "B" team.

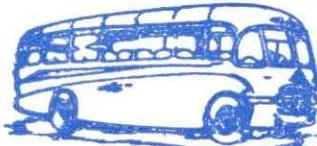
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