

LUTON v. SWINDON.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton 1 goal.

Swindon 1 goal.

Teams:—

Luton — Jarvis; Chapman and Hedley; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Trueman; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moore, and Stansfield.

Swindon—Skiller; Kay and Walker; Tout, Silto, and Chambers; Jefferson, Fleming, Lavery, Bown, and Fenton.

Referee, Mr. A. Farrant (Bristol).

About three thousand people witnessed this match. The first half was well contested, but the second half was not so good, and for quite a long period Swindon were slightly the better team. Towards the finish Luton assumed the upper hand, but could not score, and the game ended in a draw—a fairly satisfactory result, though Luton should have made more of their chances in the first half.

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When the teams last met at Luton prior to Monday, a thrilling game was seen. That was in last March, and Swindon were making a bold bid for the championship. They were defeated by a goal to nil, and as a result Northampton gained the coveted honour. Nothing so sensational was seen on Monday, but there was some excitement in the last few minutes, when both teams tried their level best to win. It will be seen that Trueman again played at left-half, while Moore partnered Stansfield, Moody being absent owing to an injury.

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Jarvis neatly gathered the ball from centres by the Swindon outside-left and right before Quinn scored the first goal six minutes after the

start. Stansfield got away and passed to Smith, who in turn transferred to Quinn. The inside-right was almost square to the goalkeeper, but he shot with considerable force. Skiller tried to hold the ball, but it slipped from his grasp and went in between him and the post.

This early success augured well for Luton, but that Swindon meant to make the home team go all the way was shown by the fact that they immediately set up a hot attack. A free kick was given for a foul by Jones, and Jarvis was smart in catching a centre by Fenton. Moore was next conspicuous with a long shot, which Skiller saved, and Jarvis was equally smart in dealing with a low shot from Fleming.

A free kick for a foul on Stansfield was taken by Trueman, and Smith's header was caught by Skiller. Then Quinn found himself in possession following good play by Brown, and shot hard on to the wrong side of the net. Smith looked like getting through a minute later, but he was sandwiched by the backs, and cries for a free kick were unheeded by the referee. Brown again attracted attention on the right, and he nearly always disposed of the ball to advantage.

A very hard shot from the outside-right was saved, and then Moore sent wide with a flying kick. A centre from the right went across nicely, and Moore had an open goal, but took the ball wide. Perhaps the inside-left could hardly be blamed, for Smith was in front, and he did not expect the ball to reach him. Still, it was a let-off for Swindon. Then at the end of twenty-five minutes Fleming equalised with a low shot which reached the corner of the net.

Perhaps some people would blame Chapman for the part he took in the play immediately preceding the goal. He certainly did meet the ball rather weakly, but it was a standing kick quite on the spur of the moment. Before the interval Moore met a centre by Brown, but took the sphere too far, and whilst he was trying to prevent it from going over the line, Kay cleared. At the other end Lavery had an easy chance in front of goal, but shot over.

Neither goalkeeper was troubled in the first few minutes of the second half. Moore was given offside when he met a centre from Brown, following a miskick by Quinn. Chapman almost let the visitors in, but Lavery was adjudged offside when he was about to shoot. A miskick by Hedley might have proved dangerous, but he headed the ball and it went out of play. Silto then made a very good attempt from long range, and Jarvis tipped over.

Swindon were the better team in the succeeding play, which was chiefly in midfield, but Luton at length forced a corner. From this Jones passed to Stansfield, who, with a glorious chance, shot over, although quite near the goal. A little laxity on the part of Skiller might have resulted in a long volley from Hedley finding the net, but the goalkeeper saved near the post. A good run by Stansfield was finished with a cross pass. Skiller, in clearing, collided with Smith, and sustained an injury to his wrist.

From now to the finish Jefferson, the outside-right, was the most prominent man in the Swindon team. Twice he eluded both backs, and at the second attempt his shot went across the mouth of goal, passing out of play on the other side. When next he got the ball he was cleverly robbed by Hedley, who was repeatedly in the picture during the closing stages. Luton attacked hotly, and Smith was very unfortunate with a shot which rebounded from under the crossbar. On another occasion a hard shot by the centre-forward was only just saved by Skiller. The ball came out, but none of the Luton players were near enough to take advantage of the opportunity.

Luton met a team that was quite their equal, but it is not too much to say that Moody would have profited by at least one of the chances that came the way of Moore in the first half. Still, Moore played very well. The other inside man, Quinn, was in better form than usual. He tried hard, especially during the early part of the game. Brown was really the best of the forwards, for Smith was allowed very little rope, and Stansfield was not altogether convincing. F. Hawkes was the best of the halves, Jones doing a little too much hugging. Trueman was a bit too slow, and gave Hedley a lot of work to do, but that player performed splendidly. Chapman, on the other hand, was a lot below par, both in tackling and kicking. Jarvis rendered capital service in goal. Swindon adopted the open style of play, and their right wing did good work throughout the game. Fleming is a famous forward, but the honours went to Jefferson on Monday, though the outside-left showed up very well in the first half.