

LUTON IMPROVE

Swindon Beaten After Hard Game

(By "CRUSADEP")

LUTON TOWN just managed to overcome a very strong and persistent side of SWINDON TOWN. Only a few minutes before the end could the game be regarded as safe for the home side, for the visitors were always playing strong and effective football, and there was always danger of an equalising goal when they made determined raids during the second half.

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THE only goal of the first period was scored just before the change of ends by STEPHENSON, who took advantage of a bit of forceful work by Tom Bell and Rennie, accepted the pass from the latter, and beat Houldsworth with a fast, low shot. Play had been almost fiercely contested throughout this half, with Swindon holding their own very well.

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INDEED, the first dangerous shot of the game came from the visitors, but Coen made a great save from Jack. At the other end, however, there was a narrow squeak for Swindon when a good effort by Rennie cracked the bar with the goalkeeper helpless to save, while Stephenson missed two fairly easy chances from close quarters.

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THE Town showed the neater footwork, but the visitors were strong and tackled quickly, and in this manner frustrated many movements that lacked speed. At no time, however, was the game without interest, and the defenders on either side had to work very hard to keep their lines clear.

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IN the second period the home side had much the better of the exchanges, and pressed very hotly for fairly long spells, whereas the visitors' efforts were mainly confined to raids. For half-an-hour after change of ends the Swindon goal was constantly threatened, and though the home forwards had a good deal of ill-luck, they could have scored several times had the marksmanship been good.

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SWINDON eventually took a more prominent part, and there were four or five occasions when they seemed likely to score, but the home defenders played up strongly to the demand, and finally wore down the edge of the Swindon attack. The Town obtained their second goal just before the end, when Martin gave Tom Bell a perfect pass; the centre-forward went through, but held on too long, and the goalkeeper robbed him, only to see SAM BELL slip in and score.



G. STEPHENSON

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THE Town defence had only once previously averted a goal against them, and that was in the match with Cardiff City. On this occasion, against a sharp and speedy attack that had scored in every previous game, the Town defence remained safe. Coen and his backs showed up well, and rarely made a mistake, and the half-backs also did remarkably well and are settling down.

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THE forwards were again good in approach, but left much to be desired in finishing. Stephenson played very well at outside-left, and so Russell was not missed. The others worked hard, and with better shooting could have reaped a real reward for their midfield superiority.

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LUTON TOWN	2
SWINDON TOWN	0

(Stephenson, Sam Bell).

LUTON. — Coen; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Bell (S.), Martin, Bell (T.), Rennie, Stephenson.

SWINDON. — Houldsworth; Duckworth, Herod; Horrocks, Nixon, Merrick; Peters, Fowler, Jack, Bowl, Gunson.

Referee.—Mr. E. C. Carnwell, Lichfield.