TOWN DISAPPOINT IN SECOND HALF.

WITH-THE-GALE GOAL GIVES LUTON THE POINTS.

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FRANK PETERS, who holds the record of having scored more goals this season than any other right winger in the four big leagues, and who was relegated to the Western League side following the mid-week match against Aldershot, made a welcome reappearance in the Swindon Town side for the visit of Luton Town to the County Ground this afternoon.

This represented the only change from the side that shared points with Brighton and Hove last week.

Luton defeated the Town earlier in the season, but prior to this afternoon Swindon had captured five of the six points at stake when opposed to the "Hatters" at the County Ground.

Last season they won 3—1, in 1932-33 the match ended 1—1, and in the season before that Swindon won by the odd goal of five.

The cup-tie attractions at Bristol and Reading had an adverse effect upon the gate this afternoon and there were only about 5,000 present when the teams took the field in the following order.

SWINDON TOWN.

Houldsworth
Wallace Herod
Cousins Armstrong (W.) Nixon
Peters Armstrong (T.) Bowl Gunson
Fowler
Ball
Stephenson Roberts Bell Crompton
Fraser Thayne Brown
Mackey Smith
Coen

LUTON TOWN.

Referee: Mr. E. C. Carwell (Lichfield).

A strong wind blew diagonally across the ground, and it was soon evident that the players were going to experience considerable difficulty in keeping the lively ball under control.

Swindon, who were compelled to face the wind and a blinding rain, got off the mark in great style. Bowl and Gunson combined cleverly in a left-wing raid, and, when eventually the ball was placed into the centre, Fowler fastened on and went almost to the goal-line before attempting to centre to Peters. Unfortunately, however, the ball was caught up by the wind and taken out of play at the other side of the field.

From the throw-in, T. Armstrong ran in to snap up a pass from Peters, and he advanced two or three yards before letting drive. The wind affected his shot, the ball being carried across the goal-mouth and out of play.

Luton experienced difficulty in getting the ball away, and, following good work by Gunson, Bowl tried a shot from the edge of the penalty area. Coen, however, had little difficulty in saving.

Luton made their first promising movement at the end of five minutes, when Crompton raced away on the right and tested Houldsworth with a long-range shot. A minute or so later Stephenson lobbed the ball into the goal-mouth. The Swindon goalkeeper punched clear with the three inside forwards almost on top of him.

Luton Take the Lead.

Luton went in for a good deal of long-range shooting after this, and Houldsworth had to save from Brown and Thayne.

The Swindon defenders experienced great difficulty in clearing their lines against the gale, and Luton went ahead at the end of seven minutes, BELL beating Houldsworth with a clever shot from about 15 yards out.

Straight from the kick-off Luton made another raid on the Swindon goal, but Bell, after working a clever opening, shot wide of the mark.

Swindon went away in good style, Gunson paving the way with a nice run on the left wing, and, when he centred, Fowler dashed in and sent the ball into Coen's arms.

The wind was playing queer tricks with the ball and the wonder was that the football was of such excellent character.

Swindon showed a good understanding when they got on the move, but Luton were blessed with a great advantage, and they continued to enjoy most of the play.

During another Luton raid Cousins was whistled up for a foul on Roberts, but Stephenson, who was entrusted with the free-kick, placed the ball badly, and Swindon were able to effect an easy clearance.

Playing Under Difficulties.

A couple of minutes later Crompton sent in a beautiful shot from almost on the touch line. Houldsworth fielded the ball, but as Bell dashed in to harass him he attempted to kick clear. The wind, however, carried the ball over the line for a corner kick. Crompton's flag kick was accurately placed, and Bell got his head to the ball and steered it for the corner of the net, but Houldsworth brought off a clever save.

The wind was so strong that each time the Swindon defenders kicked the ball it invariably curled back and went over their own heads. It was not to be wondered at, therefore, that Coen at the other end had precious little to do.

Tommy Armstrong engineered the best movement of the afternoon at the end of 20 minutes. Snapping up a loose ball in his own half, he tricked several opponents before passing to Fowler. The centre forward followed suit, and subsequently sent out a long pass to the left. Gunson was away in a trice and he raced to within three or four yards of the corner flag before centring. The ball beat the Luton defenders, and Peters, who had speeded in from the right, got his head to the ball, but directed it just the wrong side of the post.

Tommy Armstrong was applauded for some more clever constructive work during the next five minutes, but the inside right frittered away a fine opportunity when he held on to the ball in the Luton goal-mouth when a shot at goal would possibly have caught Coen unaware.

The Swindon forwards, particularly Armstrong, served up some clever football on the few occasions that they got going, but generally the game had developed into a "scrap" between the Swindon defence and the Luton attack.

Peters sent the ball speeding across the Luton goal-mouth when he ran into the centre to take advantage of a pass from Fowler.

Almost immediately afterwards the referee allowed Roberts to go on when he was in an offside position. The inside left transferred to Ball when Armstrong dashed across to challenge him, but the centre forward shot outside as Houldsworth advanced.

Luton made several more spear-head attacks as the game wore on, but Ball and Co. were held at bay by the Swindon defenders, who were getting through a tremendous amount of hard work in business-like style.

Swindon On the Offensive.

Swindon raised the hopes of the crowd about five minutes from half-time, when Fowler, full of the tricks of the trade as ever, worked a clever opening for Peters. The outside right was quick to fasten on the ball, and, when he returned it to the centre, Fowler, like a human bullet, threw himself headlong in a grand attempt to connect with the ball as Coen advanced to save.

Swindon kept up the pressure for some minutes, and when Peters again hooked the ball in the goal-mouth, the Swindon centre forward made another wonderful effort to reach the ball with his head. He leapt up as the goalkeeper came out to gather the ball, but he missed his object and crashed into the back of the net.

Luton made a concerted effort to increase their slender lead during the closing stages, but Herod and his colleagues in defence performed with great success, and Houldsworth was not seriously troubled.

Half-time:

LUTON 1
SWINDON 0

Swindon had earned full marks for their first-half display against a gale. Moreover, their forwards had always served up the cleverer football when chances came their way, and it was anticipated that Luton would be in for a gruelling time during the second stage.

The visitors resumed in spirited style, however, and Houldsworth was twice in action in the first three minutes.

Once they had cleared their lines, Swindon launched a series of attacks on the visiting goal, and these culminated with a brilliant save by Coen, who went at full length to hold on to the ball when T. Armstrong went in to shoot from point-blank range.

There were thrills in plenty in the Luton goal-mouth after this, but Coen displayed uncanny anticipation on several occasions, and he and his full backs succeeded in keeping Fowler and the other members of the Swindon forward line at a safe distance.

Doing Everything But Score.

Swindon, as the game wore on, enjoyed almost all the play, and, with their half-backs close up in support of the forwards, Luton were kept almost continuously on the defensive. Corners were forced on both sides of the field, but neither Peters nor Gunson enjoyed any success with their flag-kicks, the ball invariably finding a resting-place on top of the net.

Tommy Armstrong came close with a good shot after Fowler had sent him through, and, following a goal-mouth scrimmage, W. Armstrong sent in a grand drive from fully 30 yards range. His effort looked a winner all the way, but Coen leapt up and succeeded in putting the ball over the bar for a corner, which proved unproductive.

Just afterwards Bowl was presented with a grand opportunity but from less than five yards range he shot hopelessly wide with his left foot. The conditions were even worse now than during the opening half, but Swindon

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were no more impressive with the conditions in their favour than Luton had been.

Herod, when hard pressed by Crompton, attempted to pass the ball back to his goalkeeper, but his effort was ill-directed, the ball going over the line for a corner. The flag-kick, however, caused little or no anxiety.

Luton made one or two more dangerous raids after this, Stephenson and Crompton being conspicuous on the wings, and on one occasion Houldsworth had his work cut out to keep his goal intact when Roberts and Ball raced in to harass him as he went out to gather a centre from the left-winger.

Swindon were not playing nearly so well at this stage as they did during the first half, but they had innumerable opportunities and came close to drawing level on several occasions. Once Coen saved a certain goal when he fell on the ball almost on the goal-line. Directly afterwards Tommy Armstrong let drive from the penalty area, but Coen leapt up and caught the ball underneath the bar.

Packing Their Goal.

Gunson, who was in the wars in the first half, was limping on the left wing and was unable to work up any speed. William Armstrong also received a kick, and exchanged positions with Tom Nixon for about ten minutes.

Despite these handicaps, Swindon enjoyed nearly all the play, but they were unable to force home their advantage. Coen was in great form, and was well protected by a barrier of defenders who packed their goal whenever Swindon threatened danger.

There was an appeal for a penalty when Fowler was sandwiched between the Luton backs as he raced in to fasten on to a forward pass from William Armstrong, but the referee waved play to proceed.

Luton went away immediately, and Crompton, who was unmarked, veered into the centre before shooting. Houldsworth had advanced to narrow the angle, and he succeeded in holding the winger's drive.

Result:

SWINDON 0
LUTON 1

Gate, 5,428; receipts, £288 6s.

Comments.

After giving such a splendid display in the opening half, Swindon failed dismally with the conditions in their favour, but a draw would probably have been a fairer result to an extremely poor game. Good football was out of the question, and it would be unfair to offer any criticism of the individual efforts. The outstanding man on the field was undoubtedly Coen, the Luton goalkeeper, who brought off a number of fine saves.