

SWINDON BEATEN

Luton's Fifth Victory Away

(By "CRUSADER")

SUPERIOR in skill LUTON TOWN proved to be at SWINDON when they completed the double over their old foes of forty years ago. They had no advantage in the matter of pluck, for the home side fought desperately throughout, and never gave up while there was a possibility of a goal. Now and then one or two got a bit rattled, but that could be forgiven in most cases owing to the conditions in which the struggle took place.

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WINNING the toss, the Town had the advantage of the wind, which was very high, and drove a slight drizzle into the faces of the home team. It seemed as if there must be a crop of goals against the side so handicapped, for the wind carried the ball at great speed whenever a shot was sent in. One goal only came, however, and the home supporters evidently thought it would be an easy task to wipe off that deficit and get a substantial margin

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WHEN the Town had to face the elements, however, conditions grew worse as the afternoon advanced, and the rain came down in a sheet, bitterly cold rain that lashed into the faces and made itself felt through the thin shirts and knickers. Indeed, Referee Carnley said after the match that had the ground been waterlogged to any degree he would have stopped the match. The turf, however, was in good condition, as it always is at Swindon, where they have room to practise outside the ground.

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FOR most of the first half the Town were pressing severely, and Houldsworth made many fine saves before he was beaten after a few minutes' play by a strong, low shot from BELL. Crompton had brought



Sam Bell

about a scramble in the home goal area by a fine centre, and the ball was sent out to Bell, who was well back from the ruck, and before he could be covered he had scored. There were many similar scenes, for Crompton and Stephenson got the ball across well, and only the fine packing by the home defenders and the skill of Houldsworth prevented two or three more goals.

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ROBERTS did score neatly once, but he had handled the ball as Ball slipped it through, while on another occasion Herod used his hands to prevent Crompton running in with a clear goal. Armstrong also luckily and pluckily frustrated Ball when the centre-forward was only two or three yards out and the goal seemed bound to fall.

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SWINDON gave trouble at times. They began well, and perhaps their best periods in this half came soon after the

kick-off and shortly before the change-over. Their wingers threatened severely, and Coen made good saves from Peters and Gunson, while two or three corner kicks gave anxiety. There were more flag kicks at the other end, however, for several times the ball was blown clean back from goal kicks and passed over the line for a corner.

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IN the second half there was much glee among the crowd when the Town faced the wind, but it was not long before they grew sober. Keeping the ball down well, the Town attacked hotly, the left wing especially doing fine work, and the home backs were worried almost as much as they had been before the interval. Real thrills were few and far between, but Coen brought off a spectacular save when Fowler was all but through with the ball at his feet, the Town goalkeeper flinging himself on the ball and refusing to budge.

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BROWN narrowly missed with a fine header at the other end, and Ball once burst through and tricked the goalkeeper easily, but the whistle had gone for outside. Coen was always well on the ball when Swindon sent it in, and the backs and halves defended with admirable judgment, and time and again the home forwards were thrown off their balance by the skilful manner in which Smith and Mackey positioned and challenged.

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CROMPTON came near scoring again, and Ball continued to be a rare trial to Wallace and Herod, and his activities prevented the home centre-half from giving much assistance to the forwards. Near the end the home forwards and halves threw themselves into the struggle furiously, and a goal seemed certain as three of them rushed through with the ball, but Coen brought off another wonderful save and this was the last real chance that fell to the Railwaymen.

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EVERY player on the Town side did well; they played more like a team than ever, and much the same sort of game as they played at Stamford Bridge, for they had exactly the same side. There was plenty of confidence in the defence, though in the first few minutes there were one or two shaky moments, but generally they were playing well within themselves. Halves and forwards to a man played sturdy and skilful football, and they quite deserved success.

LUTON TOWN 1
(Bell)

SWINDON TOWN 0

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SWINDON TOWN. — Houldsworth; Wallace, Herod; Cousins, Armstrong (W.), Nixon; Peters, Armstrong (T.), Fowler, Bowl, Gunson.

LUTON TOWN. — Coen; Smith, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Crompton, Bell, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

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